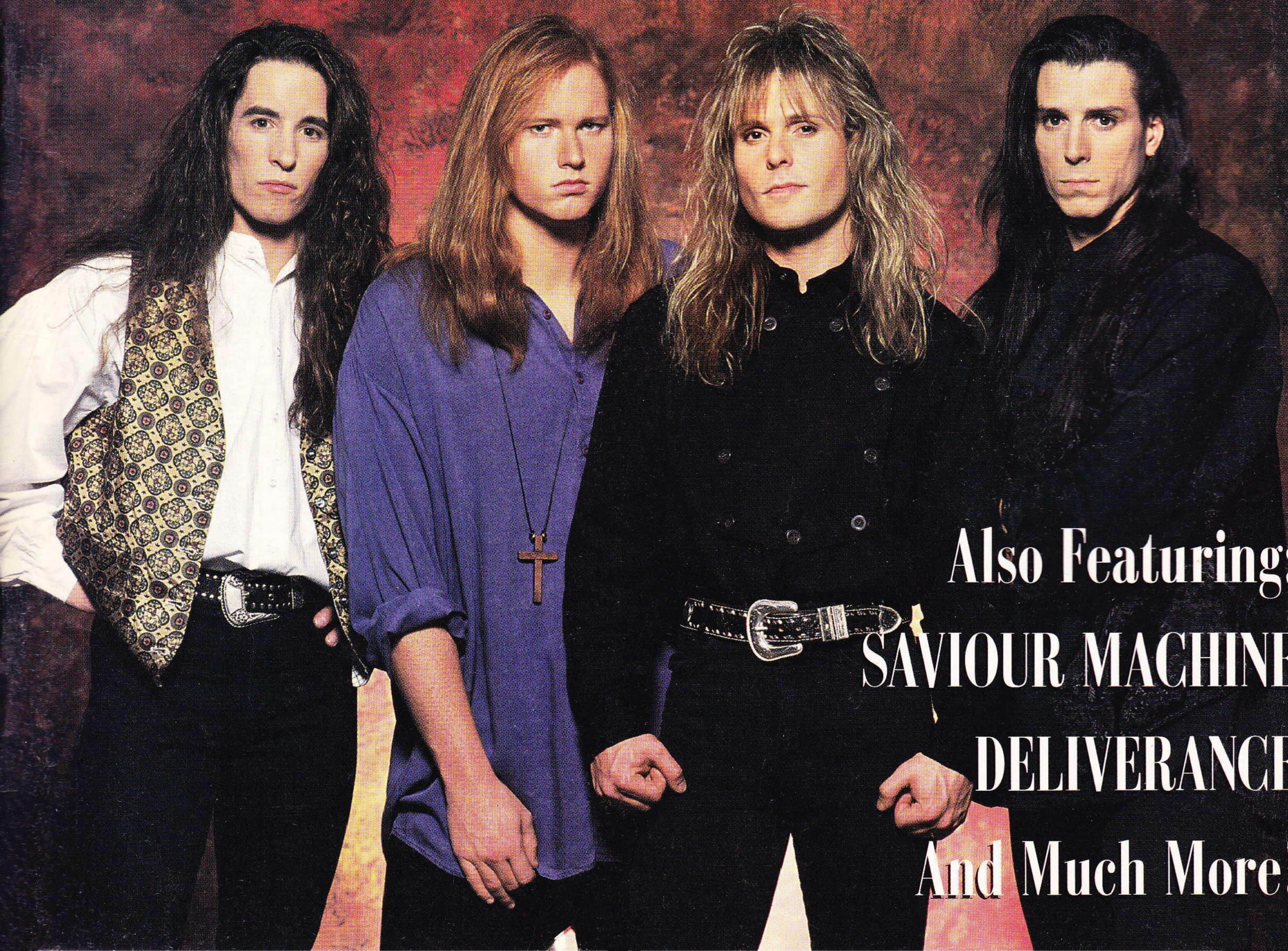


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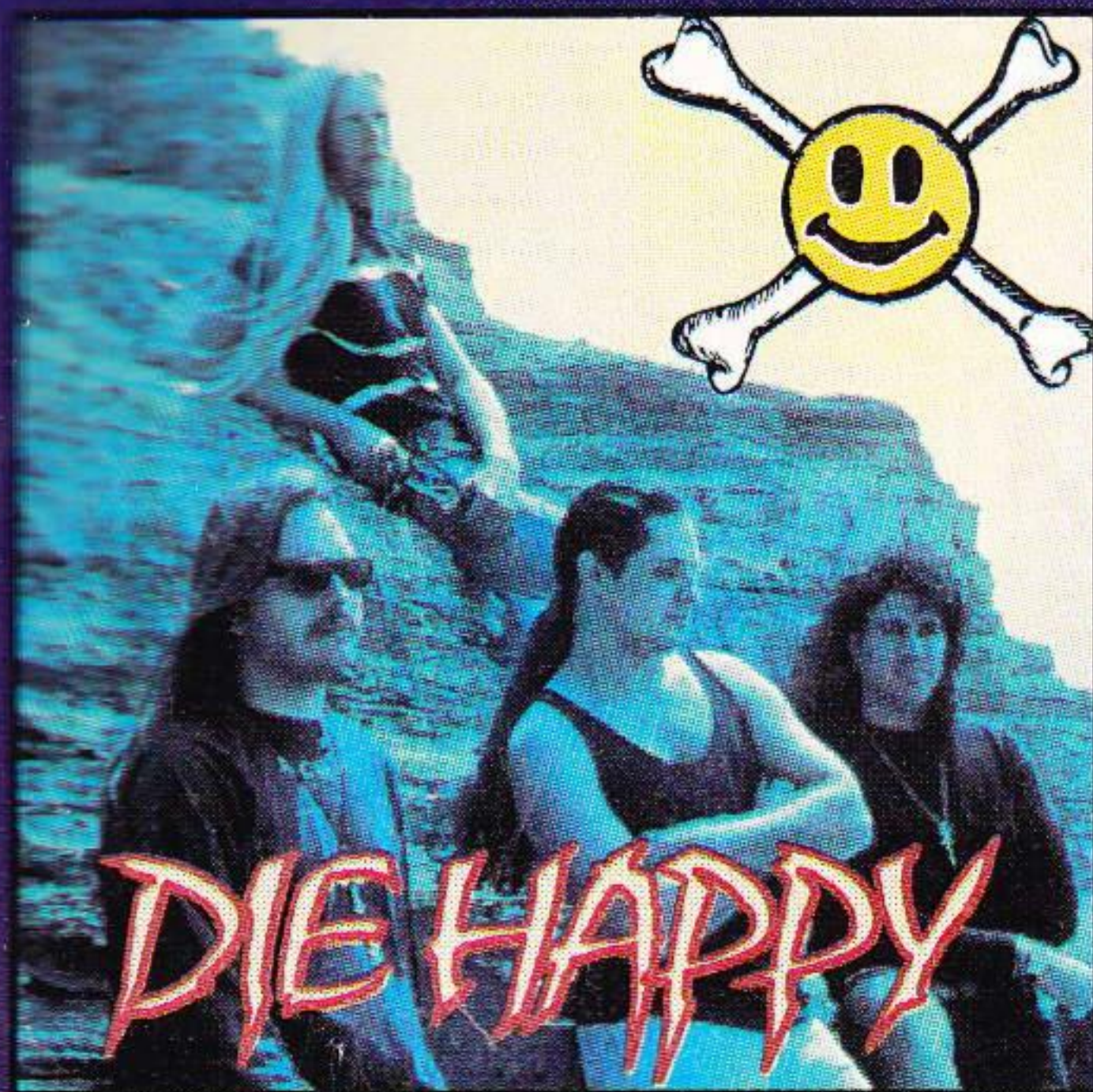
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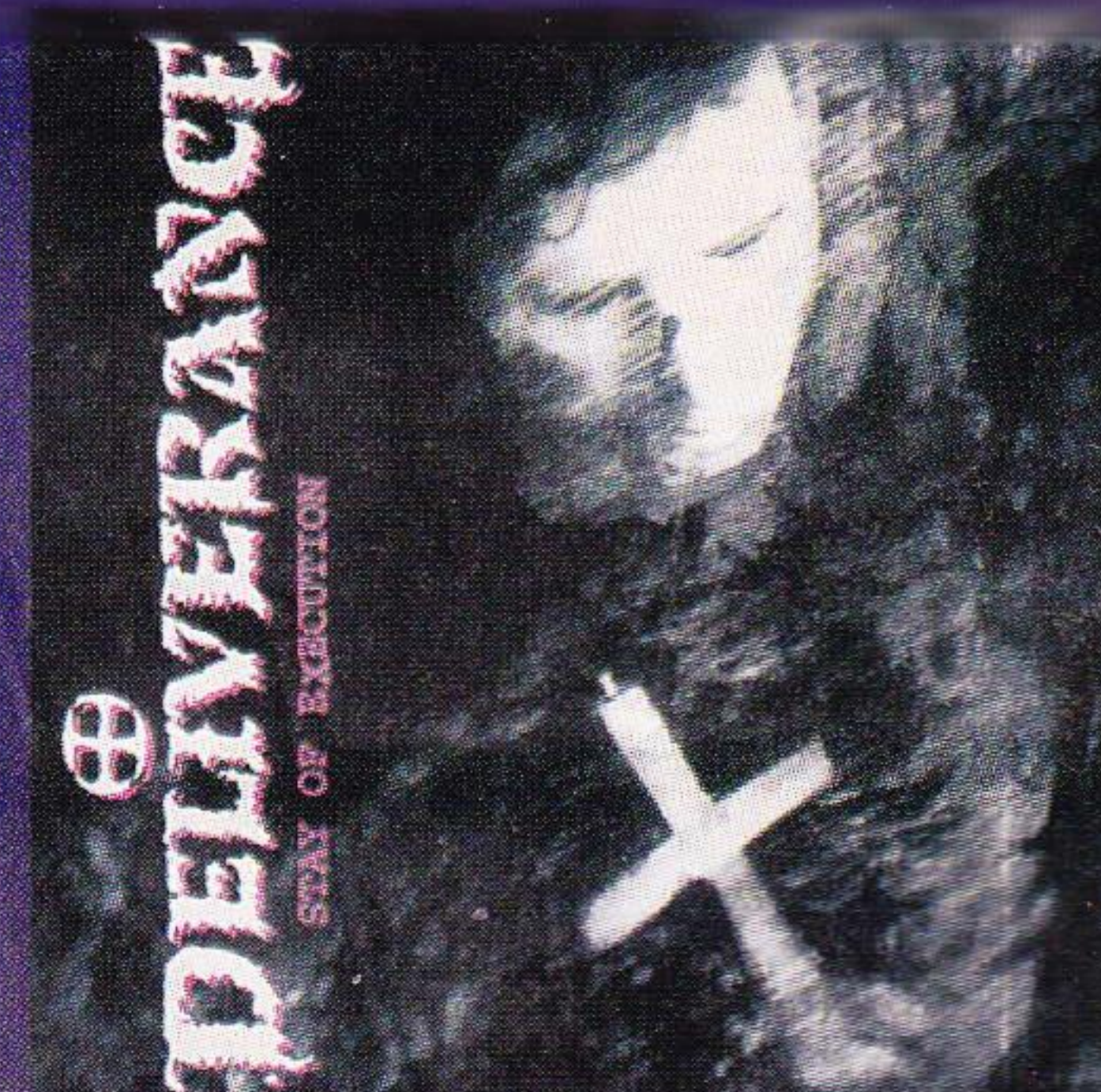
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Issue Number 40
March/April '93

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GUARDIAN PASSES THE



David Bach

Guardian is fresh out of the studio with another blazing hot album, which they're more than willing to talk about. Heaven's Metal writer David Jenison caught up with bassist David Bach and vocalist Jamie Rowe for the following interview.

****In your last Heaven's Metal interview, you discussed how Guardian had abandoned attempting to be a super-star Christian metal band in a secular industry and is now committed to being a totally Christian band. What are your reflections now?**

"Guardian still does not strive for the big rock star dreams," explains David. "Our new relationship with Epic, however, enables us to reach more people. Looking back two years later, I would say that wherever Guardian can go, Guardian will go. In the past two years, we have toured the world doing both secular and Christian shows. If Guardian

is accepted in the mainstream market, that is great. However, Guardian will always be a Christian band. Our position has not changed. Acceptance in the mainstream has been exciting, though, because the acceptance tells us that we are getting better at our craft."

****What is your relationship with Epic?**

"The Epic deal is for distribution and marketing," says Jamie. "Guardian makes its records for Pakaderm, and Pakaderm in turn gives them to Word for Christian distribution. Likewise, Pakaderm gives the records to Epic for mainstream distribution. So far, Guardian has had a great deal of success through Epic. Epic has gotten Guardian on MTV and in the secular press. I am curious about what Epic will do with the new record. With FIRE AND LOVE, the relationship between Epic and Guardian was

so new that Epic really did not know what to do with us. Now, Epic seems to understand what a Christian band needs to be marketed to a secular audience."

****What video was on MTV?**

"Power of Love was played for a few weeks on MTV's Headbanger's Ball," says David. "We also had some local mainstream video access on some pop syndicated video shows with Never Say Goodbye. Just recently, we shot a video for Shoe Shine Johnny, our first video for 'MIRACLE MILE.'"

****Where has Guardian toured?**

"Guardian toured almost all of the United States and most of Europe," reports David. "We actually made three trips to Europe on our tour. Two of our trips to Europe were on our own. The other was an extensive European tour opening up for Stryper on their final tour. During the Stryper set, Oz Fox did the vocals while Tony (Palacios) played guitar. Jamie also sat in each night helping sing Lady."

****What has Guardian learned from so much touring?**

"Touring has helped us better understand that God's plan for Guardian is for us merely to be ourselves," says David. "God brings people to us every night after shows for ministry, and it never fails to amaze me how God will bring to each one of us the very person we can relate to best through past trials. Guardian's one-on-one ministry after shows has become our focus. This year Guardian is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Amazingly, God unfolds more and more of the picture to us each year. We get more and more of a glimpse and start to understand what Guardian's ministry is."

****Your positive response to touring is intriguing, because many bands come back bitter after a tour.**

"Touring is hard work," continues David. "I think the only band that tours more than Guardian is Whitecross. We have been seasoned enough, however, that the glitz and glamour of touring are not really there for us. We know what touring is and is not. Now that we have gotten past all those illusions, we love it. We are road dogs, highway men. The hardest part of touring, though, is being away from our families."

****What is the theme of the new**

TEN YEAR MILESTONE

album "MIRACLE MILE?"

"It is kinda timeless," explains David, "an old time rock and roll revival, the Miracle Mile Revue. It is based on the story that God has always used people and always used music throughout history for sharing the Gospel. We set ourselves in a different time period, like 1875, but the greater theme is that it does not matter what time period it is, God has always used unusual people and unusual music for His purposes."

****How would you describe the musical progression of Guardian on "MIRACLE MILE?"**

"It is a little bit more live and vibey," describes David. "'FIRE AND LOVE' was a sonically excellent record. For 'MIRACLE MILE,' we cut things a little bit more loose and live. It is not radically different. It is Guardian still playing our bluesy hard rock. The best aspect of 'MIRACLE MILE' is that it is a total group effort, giving 'MIRACLE MILE' way more variance of song writing.

"Furthermore, John and Dino, our producers, gave us a good deal of freedom on the new record. 'MIRACLE MILE' goes directions we have never gone before. There are horns on this record, black Gospel singers, mandolins, Irish folk instruments, a string section--any instrument that would compliment a particular song, we went for it. This was the highest budget we have ever had for a record, so we spared no expense. We were able to indulge ourselves, yet it is not artsy. It has vibe and personality, and it is definitely Guardian."

"The record is without a doubt a real authentic rock and roll record," says Jamie. "If you are looking for 'FIRE AND LOVE PART II,' honestly, I doubt you will find it here. If you are looking for Guardian's next step in God's plan, 'MIRACLE MILE' is it."

"Another theme of the record is people who have influenced our lives," adds David. "Take, for example, the song **Shoe Shine Johnny**. The song is based around a person from my childhood when I lived in Washington D.C. When I was four years old, we had this maid who was always singing hymns and was joyful even though she was doing such menial work. Her joy in the Lord made an impact on me for life. As we were scating around with some ideas, Jamie started singing something about Shoe Shine Johnny. The result of combining the ideas is a song about a shoe shine guy with great joy in the Lord. Though he may have had a lowly status in people's eyes here on earth, he had his

treasure in heaven."

****Jamie, tell us about your recent marriage.**

"Heather and I got married last May here in Nashville. She is a wonderful wife. In my first concert for my old band, Tempest, Heather's band actually opened for us. She was in a Nashville band called Beyond The Veil. The band has broken up, but I believe they might get back together soon. We first dated when she was 15 and I was 17."

****I know that Guardian has recently relocated to Nashville. Did you feel that God directed the move?**

"As a matter of fact," says David, "absolutely. To any reader who is thinking about picking up stakes and moving, we prayed about the move for at least a year. We prayed about it, talked about it, argued about it. The whole band wanted to move, except for Tony. But Tony said, 'If God is moving, I am not going to stop Him. But I need help to move, because I have kids and stuff.' Sure enough, God came in. Michael W. Smith called Tony and asked if he would play guitar for the 'CHANGE YOUR WORLD' tour. Tony got the Smitty gig, and it made a way for Tony to get here. Looking back, I see how God moved us here. He opened every door. I know that God has a reason for us to be here, spiritually, and maybe not as much as us ministering to other people, as much as God ministering to us. We feel a total peace."

"Tony was the last one who wanted to go," says Jamie, "but he was the first one here. God blew his mind. He told me the

Tony Palacios (Photo by Jim Eagle)

other day that he realized just how big God is. He did not realize that God was in control of every last speck of things. Tony was tripping out, 'How am I going to get there?' He said that he should have trusted God, because God had it all worked out.

"Personally, I am from Indiana originally, so it is not much of a change for me. I can honestly say that I really liked California, but I am adjusting well here. It is just a little slower pace of life."

"We are not used to everybody being so relaxed and mellow," relates David. "I found out how much of an L.A. guy I really am. I guess when I get really homesick I will have to run someone off the road (laughs)."

"I'll drive by and shoot someone," laughs Jamie.

****How long will Tony be touring with Michael W. Smith?**

"The 'MIRACLE MILE' tour officially starts May 25," reports David, "and Tony finishes with Smitty on May 9, so it will be a busy schedule for Tony. We do not want our fans to worry about Tony playing with Smitty, though, because Tony is absolutely still in Guardian. The gig with Smitty was an awesome opportunity for him."

****Describe the up-coming Guardian tour.**

"The first leg is back to Europe again for a few weeks," says David, "and then we will be hitting the States heavily this summer. I know that we will play Atlanta Fest, Creation Fest and others. Guardian will play many major festivals and do a club tour. Epic is getting involved in the tour, since there was some mainstream radio airplay on the last record. Guardian will be busy in the second half of '93."

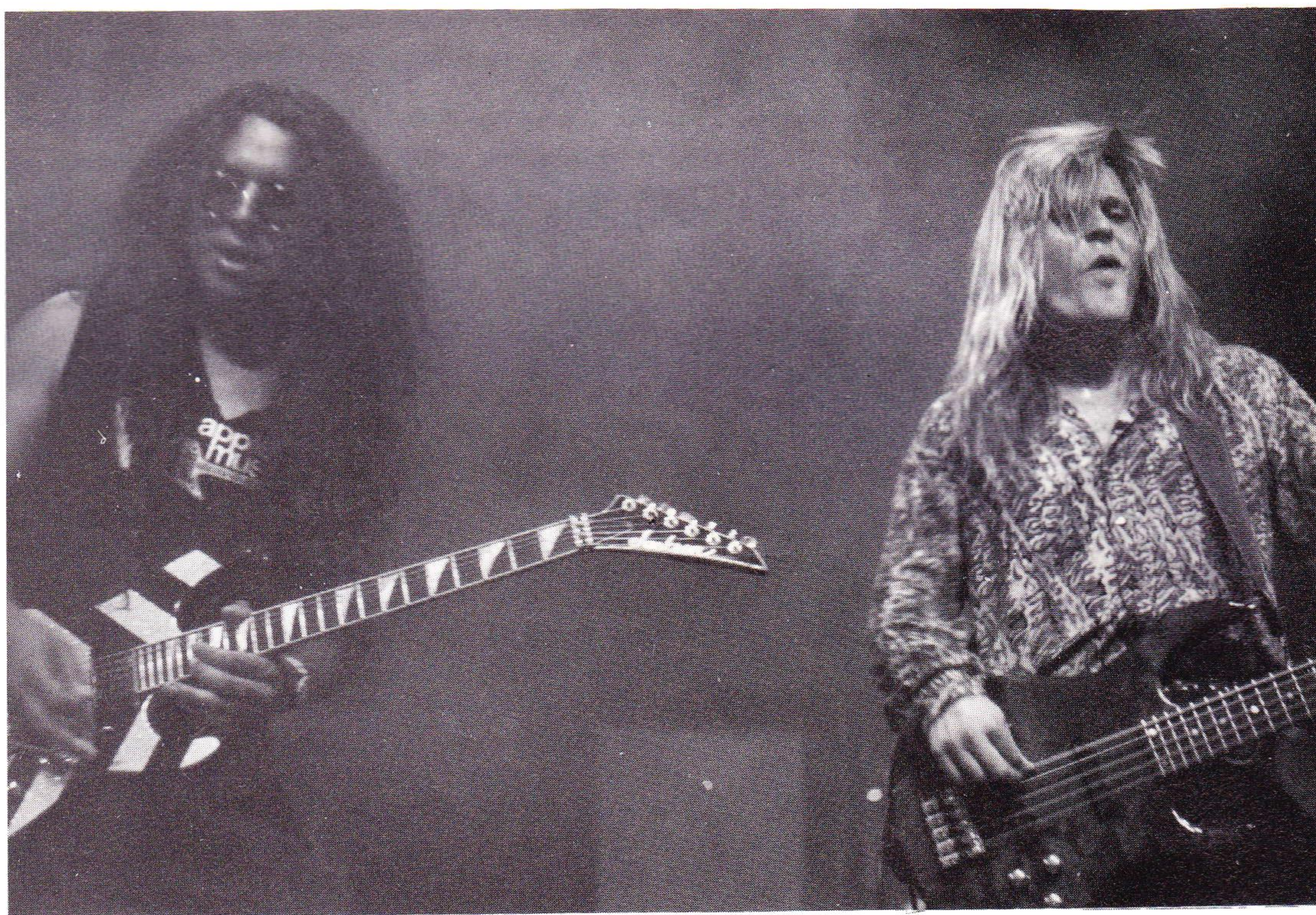
****What song received secular airplay?**

"Power of Love had lots of airplay," says David, "but, in the Midwest, Send A Message also had play. There were some stations right in the Midwest--Nebraska, Kansas, the central states region--that jumped on Send A Message in heavy rotation. When we went down to the radio station, they rolled out the red carpet, put us on the air, and had Jamie sing a couple songs acoustically over the air--and the phone lines were ringing. What I have said is not to boast, but because it just blew our minds. L.A. is a pocket. So, when you get out of L.A. it is amazing to find out that people in the heartland know Guardian."

"People in the Midwest are a little more accepting of Christian music," explains Jamie, "because most of them, whether they are Christians or not, basically grew up in the Church, so nobody is really offended by Christian lyrics."

****Tell us about your management group.**

"We finally have some real management--The Whitmore Group in Burbank, California," says David. "Mark manages Deniece Williams, Debbie Boone, and many other pop bands. I believe we are his only hard rock band, which is good for us,



Oz Fox and David

because he has thrown himself into getting Guardian going. He has made leaps and bounds, even in these last few months. It is nice to have a real management company with some pull."

"However big Guardian becomes, I hope we will always acknowledge God."

****Dave, describe your column in Heaven's Metal.**

"The idea originated after reading an issue of Heaven's Metal in which a young band being interviewed talked about the struggles and trials of being a new band and not understanding the record business. After being in Guardian for ten years and in the music business even longer, I thought of all the mistakes that I have made and seen others make. I approached Doug about writing a humorous column about a band (Tortured Virtue) and its experiences. After writing one column, it snowballed into a regular thing. Most everything about Tortured Virtue is either stuff that happened to Guardian or other bands that we know. I think people enjoy the column because they can relate to it. It is kind of like the movie 'Spinal Tap,' in that everybody laughs yet so much is so true. I am not, however, advising Heaven's Metal readers to go rent 'Spinal Tap,' because it is not the most edifying film. However, there is a spirit of

truth in there about the music business. The business can be so ridiculous that a person should not take himself too seriously. You have to have a sense of humor, or you are going to be hurt."

"Tortured Virtue is quickly becoming bigger than Guardian," says Jamie, "and they have not even played a note."

"People in different towns have actually made up Tortured Virtue shirts," says David, "which they give to me at shows. Also, many of my ideas for Tortured Virtue's songs come directly from Jamie Rowe. He can crank out more ditties than anyone I know. He comes up with the most catchy, ridiculous melodies that you cannot get out of your head. We actually have lots of joke songs with ridiculous lyrics."

****Tell us about these songs.**

"Guardian has quite an alter ego band with some pretty ridiculous stuff," admits David. "We had originally planned to give John and Dino a tape of all these songs as our demo for this new record rather than giving them the real songs. We wanted to say, 'Here's our new tunes,' and see how they would react. We chickened out at the very end. We did not want to give them a heart attack."

"I want to clarify, though, that any resemblance to any band's existing tunes is purely coincidental. I say this because somebody from a well-known speed metal band thought I was poking fun at them. We make up all the stuff on our own."

"The joke songs started a long time ago in the first Guardian line-up. Paul, our

original singer, and Rikk, our original drummer, were big Rush fans. Therefore, many of their lyrics were really wordy. Tony and I would turn their words around and use all these other ridiculous big words. Jamie, Mr. Melody, has now come in and given it all life. It is basically a running joke with the band."

****Will you ever release any of this material?**

"It could happen," says Jamie, "and if it does, it will be guaranteed to 'torture' your ear drums."

****Jamie, are any of the former members of Tempest doing anything musically?**

"Mick wants to form an alternative band. Mick is much more talented than the Tempest albums showed, and I hope he gets the opportunity to show everyone. I do not know what the other members are doing."

"Mick is a great songwriter," adds David. "Do not be surprised if Guardian records a new version of the Tempest hit **Good-Bye**."

****What about the original Guardian line-up on "FIRST WATCH?" What are Paul and Rikk doing?**

"Paul, our original singer," says David, "has a band called Renaissance and is currently shopping his demo for a deal. Rikk Hart, our original drummer, is putting a drum demo together. Both guys are still playing. We are all still friends and keep in contact."

****Tell us about the single **Take Up Your Cross**.**

"Jamie had an idea to make a six-song acoustic EP and call it 'WIRE AND WOOD,'" says David. "At the time, Pakaderm could not do it because of scheduling, but they ended up making an acoustic record of all the Pakaderm artists. Tony and I got together and cranked out a little ditty, Rolling Stones' style, bluegrass stomp, down home feel, just a little fun song. It went to number one. It freaked us out. We even had the privilege of playing the song live at the Larry Howard Cornerstone Blues Jam, which



Jamie at C-Stone Blues Jam

has since been released as a live recording and live video. It is amazing, because people at our shows will not let us off stage until we play **Take Up Your Cross**."

****Tell us about the two mainstream compilation albums Guardian was on.**

"Last summer," explains Jamie, "Guardian was on two secular compilations released by Sony, which included bands like Warrant, Firehouse, Ozzy, Alice in Chains and Cinderella. One of the compilations, 'SMASHING METAL,' had **Power of Love** on it and the other, 'CRUSHED BY LOVE,' had both **Power of Love** and **Never Say Goodbye**."

"Guardian's mainstream acceptance and Epic support has been very encouraging," says David. "There is a great spiritual lesson to be learned here. When we stopped striving to be the great secular rock band, God gave us the opportunity back. Proverbs talks about casting your bread on the waters and it will come back. We gave the whole secular issue to God and, sure enough, 'FIRE AND LOVE' was our best-received secular work so far. I hope the same happens for 'MIRACLE MILE.' However, if it is going to happen, we want God to do it. In fact, I want to publicly acknowledge in this interview that everything good that has happened to Guardian is because God did it, not us. However big Guardian becomes, I hope we will always acknowledge God. This business is filled with so much ego and pride, and no doubt we have our share, but in a moment of spiritual sobriety, one has to recognize that it is God Who is making things happen."

"We are all smart enough to know that God can say, 'Okay guys, that's it, your music is done. Go work your job and minister to your family 24 hours a day.' It could happen," says Jamie.

****Tell us about the artwork on the album.**

"David Bach did all the artwork on our new record," says Jamie, "and he did a tremendous job. Honestly, I was not really thrilled about our last record cover. On the new record, we got the cover we wanted, and I think people are going to like it."

"I had a great deal of fun working on the cover and all the other elements," says David. "I was glad that Pakaderm gave me so much leeway and just let me design the stuff myself. Graphic design is my other trade. Hopefully, people will like it. It is a very interesting and intense cover. People are either going to love it or hate it, but it is definitely not a boring record cover."

****Any last comments?**

"Make sure the readers know that we sincerely appreciate all the support they give us," says Jamie. "It is cool that people have allowed us to be a part of their life and world. I ask that God continue to bless us in this way. I hope God does bless us, because we enjoy doing music very much, and we could not do it without people. Bottom line: We really appreciate our audience."

HM

Behind The Mask Of Saviour Machine

One of Christian music's most bizarre bands has been signed to Frontline and is due to have an album out next month. Vocalist Eric Clayton wanted to talk to Heaven's Metal to verbalize the band's philosophy and direction. The following conversation took place in October, before the band's new album was recorded. Check it out.

****Describe Saviour Machine's sound or style.**

"I would say that we're a unique blend of things," explains Eric. "If I could describe the sound just at first impression: 'It sounds powerful. It sounds confrontational.' It's a combination of very melodic chord progressions with very passionate, powerful vocals kinda mixed with intricate guitar work--really effect-oriented guitar work, kind of along the lines of U2 or (David) Gilmour.

"Our influences range from a huge range of influences: Sabbath, which was probably one of the first influences; early Genesis with Peter Gabriel, who is a big influence on myself personally; the early and mid David Bowie period; and Pink Floyd is a massive influence on us.

"You won't hear any blues orientation at all. It's very classically-oriented as far as the kind of scales and progressions we use. On our first record, we'd like to put out the essence of power and passion, like a modern classical music, basically. We'll probably use lots of strings and choir. I'll probably do the choirs myself with background vocals.

"I have ideas for future albums, but at this point it's very heavy. We have a lot of ballads, but they're heavy ballads--not power ballads, like crunchy guitars. I think people get the wrong impression from 'heavy.' People say Metallica's heavy. Okay, they're heavy, but, at the same time, they're no more heavy than, a great Queen or Elton John ballad or a brilliant ethereal piece by Pink Floyd. I think that's just as heavy. It doesn't have to have tons of distortion and be loud to be heavy.

"Some of the pieces by Brahms and Beethoven and composers like that were some of the most heavy pieces of all time. We do use electric guitars. We're the standard rock four-piece: bass, drums, vocals, guitar. But we try to do something unique with it. We stay away from the blues, mainly because it's been done a billion times and we'd like to do something a little more ethereal, a little more melodic and moody. I would like to personally get into more of an ethereal, atmospheric side. I would eventually like to do a movie soundtrack.

"Songs are the most important



L-R: Eric Clayton . Jeff Clayton . Ricky Thompson (FMG) . Dean Forsieth . Sam West Photo by Chris Elliot

aspect of Saviour Machine, more so than anything. We definitely have our own sound, but songs are the most important thing to us. Strong songwriting is from the heart. Songs that really make an impact, as far as musically and lyrically. I write the lyrics. The band together we write the music.

"We have a new drummer, by the way. Most of California knows already, but we'll let everybody else know that Samuel West, former scaterd-few drummer, is with Saviour Machine. It's been a wonderful thing. It's definitely been a blessing. It was unfortunate that scaterd-few broke up. It was also coincidental. They broke up the same week that we lost our drummer. It was something that was maybe meant to be. At this point, we're just loving it. Working with Sam is a great thing. His rapport with the band is excellent. He's come in and re-written all the drum parts for all the songs that were established. I believe that we'll make some great music together."

"There was a time when we were talking about doing a tour with scaterd-few. When we first saw them, we were like, 'Wow, here's a band we could do some shows with. Here's a band who knows what it's all about and they're doing something interesting and creative with a touch of brilliance. It's always good to have bands that are doing something unique. There's so many mundane, lame bands out there doing the same old re-hashed thing.

"The whole world's music scene needs more growth. Some things are

happening, and it's good. It's hard, because everything is money and it's about money. When money is the bottom line, anything that's artistic or that involves an extreme amount of integrity is gonna be something that takes a second seat to something that's gonna sell billions of records right off the top. If we put Saviour Machine against Stryper, say, Stryper is gonna sell a lot more records than Saviour Machine right out of the shoot, but we're gonna be around a lot longer than they are. It's one of those things where you have longevity. That's what Saviour Machine is all about.

"A band like Metallica is a good example of a band that started off 10 or 11 years ago. It's taken them a good 10 years to get where they're at now, but they're still here and they're still plugging away. They've never forgone their integrity or their own ideology. They've always made the music they wanted to make, and they've grown with it. It started off small and now look at it. In the midst of Metallica rising to what they've become, think about all the Warrants and Poisons and Fastways and Quiet Riots that have gone through. I mean, how many bands rise and fall and one continues to take one step at a time? Saviour Machine has always known that's how it's gonna be with us. We've always grown one step at a time.

It's like something that takes a little time to get into. Some people get into it right away and it's great, but on a large scale, a lot of people can't get into it right away, because of the kind of things they've been fed for so

long. When you keep getting fed the same old crud, it really blows your mind when you get something totally out there. It's like people say we're so obscure. It's not that obscure, but they've been hearing things that are so mainstream for so long that it really makes it sound obscure. I really don't think we're that obscure. You know, we don't make it a point to go out there and get jazz fusion-oriented or get all psychedelic on anybody, you know. The lyrics are intense. There's a deep preface of what's going on. It's extremely intense about what's going on lyrically.

Musically, I think songs are the most important thing that's memorable. We want to write memorable songs, because that's what it's all about. It's not about how many times that you can sit there and play your guitar 90 miles an hour, like 'b-ddddddd' (noise made by putting your tongue on the roof of your mouth and repeating 'd'). It's not about sitting there doing speed all night and shredding on your guitar and becoming Yngwie or Steve Vai. It's about songs. Songs are what stick around. Songs are about integrity. Musically, we're all capable, but there's a reason we don't make it a point to see how many time changes we can put into a tune or how fast we can play this lead or this drum solo here."

****You mentioned prefaces to your songs. What do you mean by that?**

"Maybe I used the wrong word. Maybe the word I was looking for was the essence. Every song is definitely a story. Within the growth of the story, they get into heavy political, social or spiritual subjects. One element that you'll see a lot of is the human nature, the continual struggle between the mind and soul, the eternal conflicts of man, or the many faces of man. Our logo represents the many faces of man we put on. These masks keep us from being who we are. We're about taking away these masks and opening up some eyes.

"My lyrics are surreal. They're very heavy in a lot of ways as far as how people may consider 'em way out there, but they're really not. You just need to look into 'em. They're getting fed a lot of the same stuff for so long that they're gonna seem way out there, but they're things that, like I said, are stories. Hopefully they're important stories. Without sounding totally out there--I don't know if it's gonna offend anybody or not--I believe the lyrics that are written by Saviour Machine are, when I sit down and write a song, I truly believe that they're written from the hand of God. I believe that they're guided by God. If you believe that's possible, you can print that."

****From the looks of some bands like Wailing Wall, it seems that you've already**

been a musical influence in your area.

"I imagine there's some more bands that have been influenced by us. That's a good thing. That's why we're here, I imagine. I believe the reason that we've been called here is to kind of break down some walls and hopefully open some people up to things and not so much influence but make some strong impact on some other musicians.

"Like I said earlier, we've taken elements of Sabbath, Floyd, Bowie, Peter Gabriel and U2. When I first saw U2, I said, 'Wow, this is one of the most powerful things I've ever seen. These guys have an immense passion. I feel a passion and power coming through their music.' I've maybe taken it to a different level than Bono did. Bono did it much more on kind of a compassionate and friendly approach. I take maybe a more obscure approach to it or it's very confrontational. It has more of that kind of Jim Morrison element to it, kind of obscure.

**"When I write a song,
I truly believe that
they're written from
the hand of God."**

"Saviour Machine is kind of like U2 intensified about 10 times, as far as a little deeper level. It's kind of what we're about. Not that I'm any better by any means. I think U2 is one of the greatest bands of all time. I couldn't even say Saviour Machine in the same sentence with those guys. It is that element of the early U2 sound that sparked my passion for what I was doing. They've always had a strong spiritual vibe to their stuff and very humanity-oriented band, which is a great element.

"Maybe we've found a combination of things (influences) that have never been done before. We really like it. It's made quite an impact so far. We love to see people come out and be completely enthralled in the visual aspect of the band live and the spiritual and confrontational aspect of things. The whole power of the whole trip. I think people see God in it. I think people see a power and a passion and a truth in what we're doing. There's no way to really deny it. I think it scares some people, but I think that's why we get that 50/50 thing. Actually, now it's about 70/30. They either pick up on it for the power and see the grace in it or they kind of are intimidated by it."

Intimidation or acceptance. What a great option! Saviour Machine is obviously not your typical band. It'll be most interesting to see what kind of public reaction they get. Until then, wonder... **HM**



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GETTING SERIOUS WITH DELIVERANCE

Deliverance has introduced the new Intense Live Series with a "live in the studio" EP, and Jimmy Brown wanted to talk about it. Check out his description of this recording session and the perils of running a band's merchandise, as well as giving further insight into the meaning behind the "STAY OF EXECUTION" album.

****Why don't you tell us where everybody was located in the studio during the recording of this "live" album?**

"The control room is pretty small," describes Jimmy. "My amp was actually set up in the bathroom. We put my 4/12 in the bathtub with a couple mikes around it. We had small little cords leading to everything. The other guitar cabinet was sitting in the side room. The bass cabinet was actually set up in the hallway. All of us had our 'brains' right there in the studio. We were all kinda standing up and sitting down or whatever during different songs. We had a mike set up in the control room and I was just doing the vocals right there.

"We were all in the control room, except for Kevin. He was in the main sound booth with the lights completely off. We couldn't even see him. The whole time he was just playing in the dark! (he laughs with that big laugh that you'll hear on the live EP) I don't know why he was in the dark. That's why you can hear me say, 'We can't see you.' He followed pretty good. He could see us, but we couldn't see him. We were able to keep tight with each other, somewhat, but it would've been better if I had contact with the drummer.

"It was fun working with Terry again. He let us choose the songs that we were gonna do for this record. We actually had a few other songs that we recorded, but we didn't put on, because, to be quite frank, they weren't played very nicely (roars in laughter). We hadn't rehearsed, dude, in probably two months. We went in and did this thing without rehearsing or anything (laughs some more)! So, we kind of just went in and did it. The thing that stinks too, is we didn't even get to rehearse the Stryper song. I just gave everybody a tape of it and said, 'Learn it.'

"I worked up the old arrangement, as opposed to the 'SOLDIERS UNDER COMMAND' arrangement. On the original arrangement there was two verses, not just the one. Right after the 'freely surrender,' it goes back into another verse instead of the lead. The record jacket says that, 'These are just one or two takes that you're hearing.' That wasn't the case with 'Surrender,' which we got to run through a few times while Gene (Eugene) was setting up tones.

"This Present Darkness' was probably the most fun song, because we did a real good version of it--and then we did the version that's on the record (laughs). I started messing around playing these little high notes and stuff. It kind've came out more humorous, but Terry really liked it. He thought it was really funny, because we were all messing around."

****A lot of kids hate the new Deliverance sound...**

"Really?!?"

****I'm seeing the Reader's Poll results, and a lot of people are bagging on it and stuff. I don't even know if they've listened to it, but they just heard it was going to be different. What do you think about that? What's your response, Mr. Brown?**

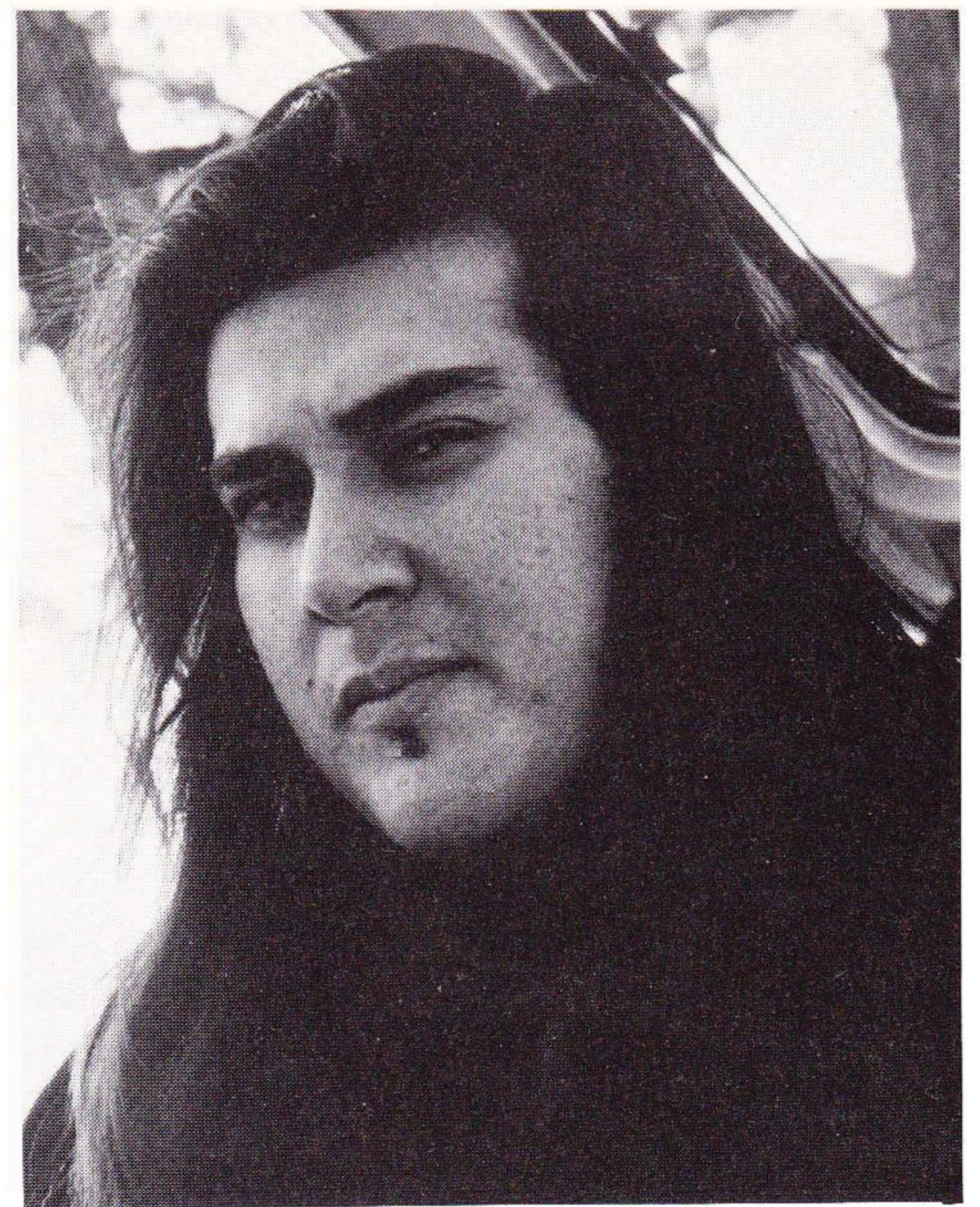
"Maybe because it's not 100 miles an hour. There's not a lot of screaming on it. Are people giving it the worst album of the year award?" (laughs)

****A couple people did.**

"Wow. That's funny. To be honest with you, I went into the studio ready to record this, realizing that it wasn't going to sell; that it wasn't going to be a hit with a lot of the kids--especially our fan base. I don't want to throw our fan base away, and I don't think we did. I think the die-hard, hardcore fans that have been into us from day-one like this record. I went to a Crucified show and a group of about 100 kids came up to me and were mad at me. 'What did you wimp out on the new record for? Why are you selling us out?'

"I was like, 'Wait a minute, who's selling who out?' I didn't sell anybody out. An artist has to have integrity. Some people don't understand it and some people do. You have to be happy with what you're doing, because if you're not happy with what you're doing then you're just doing it for the people to buy it. To me, that's selling out; but if you're doing something that you're happy with as an artist and you know that it's from your heart and you created it, whether people hate it or love it doesn't really matter.

"I prefer if people either love or hate something of mine, as opposed to, 'Ahh, it's alright.' When people say, 'Ahh, it's alright,' that hurts my feelings more than anything, because it didn't draw any big response out of 'em. That's the thing I'm seeing with this record. There's people out there that either love it or just hate it. In a way that makes me happy. Like I said, I created this record not to sell. I created this record, because I think the



Jimmy

message on it needs to be said to the church. People that are willing to take it, listen to the message and be ministered to by it; they'll understand that the music goes with the mood of the lyrics.

"I've never been into that, 'Rahhhhhh, Jee-suss Christ rahhhhhh, grrrrr ahhhhh,' or 'you are the bish-upp of souls.' I've never been able to get into that. I don't see how that music complies with that. I've never understood it.

"That's the one thing I got challenged with in this record. Terry heard my voice. He said, 'Why don't you sing like that on Deliverance records?' I said, 'Are you kidding, the kids would hate it!' That was the first thing I said, which was the first thing that made me wake up and realize: That's selling out! That's really what selling out is about: putting out what the people want, giving the people what they want. Sometimes you've got to turn around and give the people what they don't want.

"I don't know if the kids were ready for it. I'm not saying that we're this intelligent, giant band and we're so far ahead of everybody... I'm not saying that at all. I'm just saying that, 'If you're really a fan of Deliverance, you're going to be willing to move with us and change with us. Living things are constantly changing. If you're really a fan of Deliverance, you're gonna like what's going on. If you don't like it, that's cool. I don't put you down for it or anything else. I just say you don't have any taste (laughs). Just kidding.

"You know what it is, I knew all the moshers weren't going to like it, regardless of the fact of the fast part in 'From Once Was' or even 'Entombed.' It's funny, because I get letter after letter where kids are bagging on

'Entombed.' They're like, 'I love the whole album, but I can't stand the fast songs.' (laughs) That's kind of a twist. It's cool, because it's encouraging to see that the kids that really like it are taking the time to write in. They're stressing that the lyrics have moved them and the whole mood and the change has really brought it back to what Deliverance really is.

"It's really not much different. I mean, the vocal patterns and structures and patterns are different; but if you listen to the style of music, it's not much different from the first record. I think what blows it for everybody is the vocals. I think people trip out on that. It's different. I like being categorized as, 'They sound like nobody.' If people want to say it sounds like, 'Bowie joined Metallica,' I don't care. You just can't say it sounds like any certain band out there. That's one thing I respect about King's X. You can't really say they sound like somebody. You can say they sound like this meets this meets that, but you can't say they sound like Metallica. That's what I like about this record. I think we achieved some originality. I think we achieved something very original.

"To be honest with you, I was getting tired of, 'Oh, the Metallica clones are back,' or 'If you're kid likes Megadeth or Metallica, come buy this,' ya know? You read that all the time and it's like, 'Why can't Christians be original?' That was one thing I respected about scaterd-few. They were one of the very few original bands. I think 'STAY OF EXECUTION' marked a changed that we're not going to fall into a pattern--into the industry electric chair, as Kevin Allison puts it. We'll see what happens with the next one.

"If people want the 'WEAPONS' formula, then they can buy the 'WEAPONS' record again. I always say it doesn't bother me (when people bag on the new record), but it really does. It really is heartfelt. A lot of my heart was dumped into it. That's why, when people needlessly bag, it's kind of a bummer.

****Why don't you comment on the theme of the record?**

"The theme of the record is basically death to the flesh. It's all about humanness. For all these years we've been putting people on pedestals and we forget to realize that they're human beings. They're prone to fall. They're prone to be sinful, because our nature is sinful.

"I did this whole study on the humanity of Jesus. The whole reason for Christ even coming down and being the spotless lamb for us is because God wanted to experience what we go through, because just sitting up there looking down on us isn't experiencing it. When He came down and lived like a man, He was tempted like a man, He ate like a man, He went to the bathroom

like a man. He did everything like we do. A lot of people don't tend to look at Jesus like that. They don't want to think about the Lord that was tempted. They don't want to think about the Lord that went to the bathroom. They don't want to think about that Jesus. They just want to remember the Lord that did the miracle of the five loaves, or the guy that healed the blind man, but they don't want to remember that He came down and experienced humanity for us.

"He understands what we go through. That's why He is called the 'high priest Who understands our infirmities.' Look at Paul's writings: 'Oh what a wretched man that I am, for that which I don't want to do, I end up doing.' Paul expressed how we have to make a daily decision to crucify the flesh. But, so many times, as Christians we end up acting as governor and giving ourselves a stay of execution. We know we're supposed to put the flesh to death, but we say, 'No, not today,' and we order the stay. That's what the whole song is about.

"So many of us act like Governor and give our flesh a stay of execution."

"From now on, when we read the Bible, don't look at David as some high exalted character, look at him as King David the man. When you read about Paul, don't look at him as this holy man that didn't think about sinning or didn't think about boozing it up or anything else. Look at him as he was tempted like we are, because he was tempted by that stuff, just like we are. A lot of times we look at the life of Paul or Peter or anybody else and we say, 'Man, I wanna be like that; too bad I can't.' Yes you can! Because they were human beings like you! I think a lot of us as Christians miss that mark. We've got to stop exalting one another and we've got to start seeing ourselves for who we are. We're human. That's why God is going to change our mortality to immortality.

"We're human, but we all have to put our flesh to death. Like Romans 6:6 says, 'Now we know that our old man has been crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, we should no longer be slaves to sin.' We're not to live like the damned. I see so many Christians that live in condemnation, because they do sin. Man, just pick yourself up, wipe the dirt off you, pray to the Father for forgiveness and keep walking. Don't sit and dwell on it. If you sit and dwell on it, you remain in your sin.

"It's like the guy who goes into a

porn shop and sits in one of those booths and watches movies and then he starts feeling guilty and he cries. He weeps bitterly and he's like, 'God forgive me.' But he stays there! Who cares that he said, 'God, forgive me, I'm a sinner?' But he sits in the booth and he stays there! Get out of there and go pray forgiveness and don't darken the doorstep again. If it happens again, fine, but you do the same thing. You've got to keep picking yourself up. The guy who just stays there and sits in the booth and, 'Oh, I'm such a dirty sinner, God forgive me.' You don't really care. You don't. God is wooing you and you feel His conviction, but if you really cared you'd get up and walk out."

Ahh, so Jimmy P. Brown II is a good preacher! This preacher hasn't been without his woes, though. In the last year he's lost money, sleep, hair, left his youth pastor position and taken his own writer's royalties designated towards food on the table and had to put it back into the band. The reason for some of this? Some products were advertised in the "WHAT A JOKE" album that didn't exist and the monies coming in for these fictitious products were mismanaged by someone outside the band. The result? 300 plus kids writing into the band with a legitimate question: "Where's the merchandise I ordered?"

"Without trying to push the blame on somebody else," says Jimmy, "I just want the kids to know that I feel for them. It bums me out that they were ripped off and that they haven't got their stuff. I want to say, 'Look, you guys have to understand: It wasn't just you that was ripped off, it was the band that was ripped off. Your money didn't go to pay for Jimmy's trip to Florida or Brian's trip to Pakistan, it didn't go to buy me a new guitar, it didn't go towards Deliverance.' I'm not saying we're starving or anything; God definitely takes care of us, no doubt. I do want to say that it's been such an urgent care on my heart.

"It's been a nightmare. It's been taking up my time for the past ten months. I've literally lost a lot of...believe it or not, I've lost a lot of hair over it. I've lost a lot of sleep. It's been consuming my mind. I want the people to know that the people that have been ripped off, please know it's not something I'm just kind of winking my eye at and going, 'Too bad!' It's something that's really affected my life, my family life and the band. We're doing our best and we're taking care of it as rapidly as I can."

If you're one of the many who hasn't received merchandise, here's a couple pointers to help: When writing the band, clearly state exactly what you ordered and, if possible, send a copy of the cancelled check (front and back). Be aware that Jimmy can't personally write or call you back, but do include your name, address and phone number with your letter. **HM**

DISCOVERING VENI DOMINE



If you were perplexed the first time you saw the debut album from Veni Domine advertised by R.E.X. Records, you aren't the only one. This mysterious band from Sweden didn't come totally unannounced, though. Some of the Heaven's Metal subscribers from Sweden have been dropping hints about this "totally hot" band for over a year. As with most foreign bands imported over via licensing deals with Christian record companies, Veni Domine has lacked an image. Casual queries of "Who are these guys?" turned into urgent screams of "WHO ARE THESE GUYS?!" once the album was released and people in the States had a chance to hear this band's music. Always wishing to serve the wishes of its readers, Heaven's Metal sought to discover just who this band was.

First off in the discovery has to be the correct pronunciation of the band's name. It's "Veh-nee Dom-eh-nuh." Bassist Magnus Thorman tells us, "It's Latin." Okay, at least it's not someone's first and last name.

On to the next question: How long has Veni Domine been together? Magnus answers in his very competent English (almost all of Europe learns English as a second language). "This lineup was formed in 1988," says Magnus. "The band had gone on for about a year before I joined."

****What brought you guys together?**

"God, I hope. I tried to form a band where I used to live--up North. Not very many people wanted to play the kind of music I wanted, so it was kind of hard. I prayed for a band that sounded the way we sound today. So, I think God sent me these guys my way. We didn't know each other by that time, but we had the same friends. So, we got to know each other through old friends."

****How did you become a Christian?**

"I grew up in a Christian family and I was about 13 when I made a decision on my own. All of us in the band were raised in Christian families. We made our own decisions, of course."

****How did you get signed?**

"We submitted one of our demos to the Greenbelt Festival in 1990 and got to play there. Kingsway Music (from England) was at the concert, and they thought it was good. As a matter of fact, we had a number of labels that wanted to sign us, but we chose this one because we thought it was the best one for foreign distribution. We were aiming for the American and European markets."

****Why don't you tell me a little bit about the album. It seems to me to be a definite concept album. There's a theme**

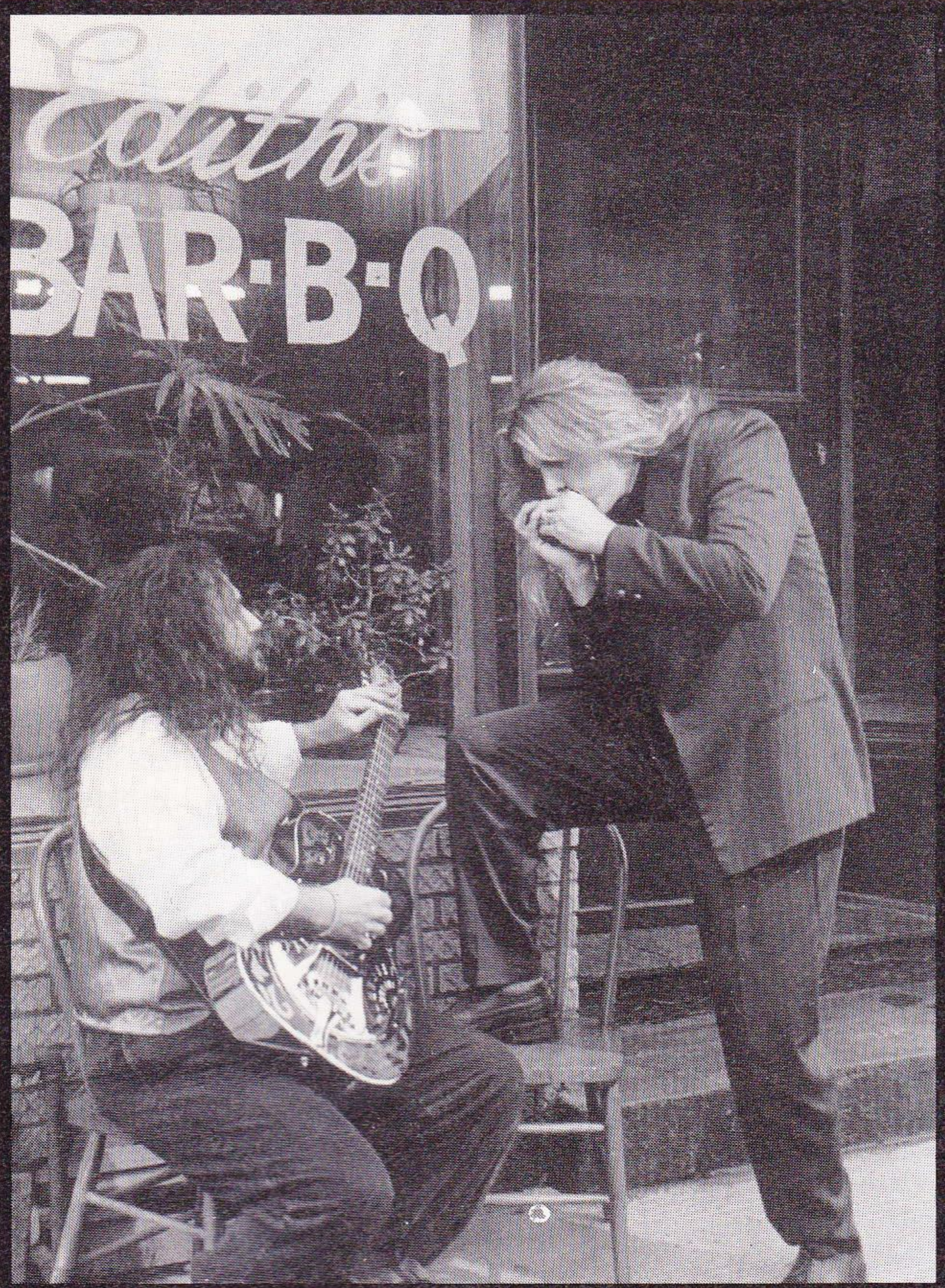
through it about Babylon and God. Why don't you tell me what kind of insight went into the album or why it was crafted that way?

"That wasn't our aim to make a concept album, but it turned out that way, because we feel very strongly that we're in the last days. As you probably noticed, most of the lyrics are just written from the Bible. We feel that this is the kind of message that people need to hear right now. So, it turned out to be a lot from the book of Revelation. We didn't plan it or anything, it just happened."

****What was the recording process like?**

"I don't think the record company really knew what they were going into when they booked us in the studio, because they only had experience with worship artists and a couple of thrash bands. With the thrash bands, they're just going into the studio and doing what they want to. We had studio time for two weeks to start with, but we ended up with four weeks because we needed more time."

"They wanted us to record in England, so we went over there and recorded. Everything went wrong there. The singer lost his voice and keyboards exploded and things like that. We didn't finish the album there. We had to bring the tapes with us back and finished in Stockholm. It took a lot of time,



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but we learned much about how to do it next time. The next one will probably be faster and less expensive for the record company."

****So, the keyboards exploded?**

"Yes, and lots of things like that. It was not very amusing at the time, but I think it was good looking back at it afterwards, because in Stockholm they did everything to the sound, even though the sound is not perfect, they made it a lot heavier. I think the next one is going to be much heavier. We will start recording in the Winter/Spring of '93, because we have this two record deal with this company."

****Do you have the songs written for it already?**

"Yes. As a matter of fact, I think we have the whole album. We want to do some more songs, though, and just pick the best ones out. We're going to write some weird stuff there...you'll see. It'll be stuff people will not expect."

****What kind of lyrics are you going to put out next time?**

"I think it's gonna be about the same: some biblical things right from the Bible. Kind of the same, the doomy stuff. I

mean, there's still hope to show people. We need to turn around. Kind of the same Gospel."

****How old are you guys and what do you do for a living?**

"I am the oldest. I'm 29. Then we have the singer, Fredrik (Ohlsson); he's 23. The guitar player (Torbjorn Weinesjo), is 23 as well. The drummer (Thomas Weinesjo), is 25. I work as an installation engineer for telephones. Fredrik is a salesman. Thomas is an office salesman. Torbjorn is a carpet fitter. We've got full-time jobs that we want to keep as far as with touring and things like that. We hope to be able to make a living on it (music) one day."

****I assume that when you guys come together in practice you speak Swedish. What made you decide to record your music in English?**

"We sing in English, because Sweden is not a very large country. It's definitely not a country where it's good for music. You don't get to play very many places. In order to reach outside of Sweden, you have to write English lyrics. I don't know any hard rock band over here that sings in Swedish. Jerusalem used to, but that's the only one that I know."

****What would you tell someone picking up the magazine about Christ?**

"It's hard to explain in one sentence, but the things that you want to say to an unbeliever is that God loves us so much that He sent His only Son here to be crucified, died for our sins and was resurrected and conquered death, so that he can become saved. I think that's the most important thing. That's the whole thing about this--getting saved. First, though, to get people to understand it, but that's what you want to tell them. I mean, that's what it's all about." **HM**

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Living With Die Happy

Heaven's Metal writer David Jenison got a hold of a few of the guys in Die Happy and got the low-down on the new album, new line-up and new plans.

****In a former Heaven's Metal interview, the first Die Happy album was described as retaining some of the musical style of Vengeance Rising. Does "VOLUME II" contain traces of Vengeance Rising or does the new album have its own sound?**

"Some of the material on 'VOLUME II' is similar in musical style to the last Die Happy album," says guitarist Larry Farkas, "but the new album is nothing like the old Vengeance material. Die Happy is an entirely different band now, with the only writing influences from Vengeance being Doug and myself. However, the new Die Happy album is not the work of only Doug and myself. The new album also has the influences of our vocalist Robin and our new bass player Greg Chaisson. The new album reflects a significant difference in the writing and the direction of the band."

****Greg, how did you come to join Die Happy?**

"Formerly, I was playing in a secular band called Badlands. I was on both the albums which featured former Ozzy guitarist Jake E. Lee. I have known Die Happy's drummer Glen for the last ten years, so when Glen asked me if I would play on the album, I agreed. When I started meeting with the band, none of the material was written, so I started writing with them. I had such a good time working with the band and so liked what we were doing that I left Badlands to be in Die Happy."

"Our former bassist, Roger, left Die Happy and joined a Southern rock band called Triple Ace," says guitarist Doug Thieme, "somewhat like Lynyrd Skynyrd. We asked Greg to help and were thrilled when he agreed to stay. Greg's participation in Die Happy has added an entirely new dimension to us. The experience Greg has with so many professional bands adds a great deal of professionalism to Die Happy. Greg's influence and experience show on the record."

****Greg, what kind of spiritual background do you have?**

"I was born a Catholic and continue to follow those beliefs and doctrines to this day. I believe in Christ, the character of Scripture, and all the essential doctrine which

most Christians believe, yet I prefer following Christ in the Catholic church. Being Catholic, though, may cause some difficulty in the Christian market. Many people, generally ignorant of what Catholicism is really all about, condemn the Catholic religion and even condemn me at times. I worship the same

God that every Christian worships in his particular church. When asked, I am very open about my faith. The members of Badlands know about my faith. In fact, everyone I have played with knows about my faith. There are many legitimate criticisms against the Catholic church, yet there are also many criticisms against the Christian church. I go to Catholic church because I enjoy it, AND I am a firm believer in Christ."

****Describe "VOLUME II."**

"The last record was written by Larry and myself," explains Doug. "When Robin came in, he did the vocals in only two days because our other vocalist dropped out at the last minute. That record was written without the contributions of the other members. 'VOLUME II' was written collectively by the entire group. In the past, one person would write an entire song and, if everyone like it, we would go with it. On 'VOLUME II' each member wrote his own separate part and then we put all the parts together as a group to make the song. The result is a much bigger mix of different types of influences. The album is much more melodic, but still has the heavy grind. Furthermore, the album has more depth and dimension in the way it is arranged."

Doug Thieme (Photo by J.P.)

****Has Robin become your full-time vocalist?**

"Yes," answers Doug. "Robin has left Jaguar and is now a full-time member of Die Happy."

****What will be the single?**

"The single probably will be either **Justified** or **Sticks and Stones**," says Doug.

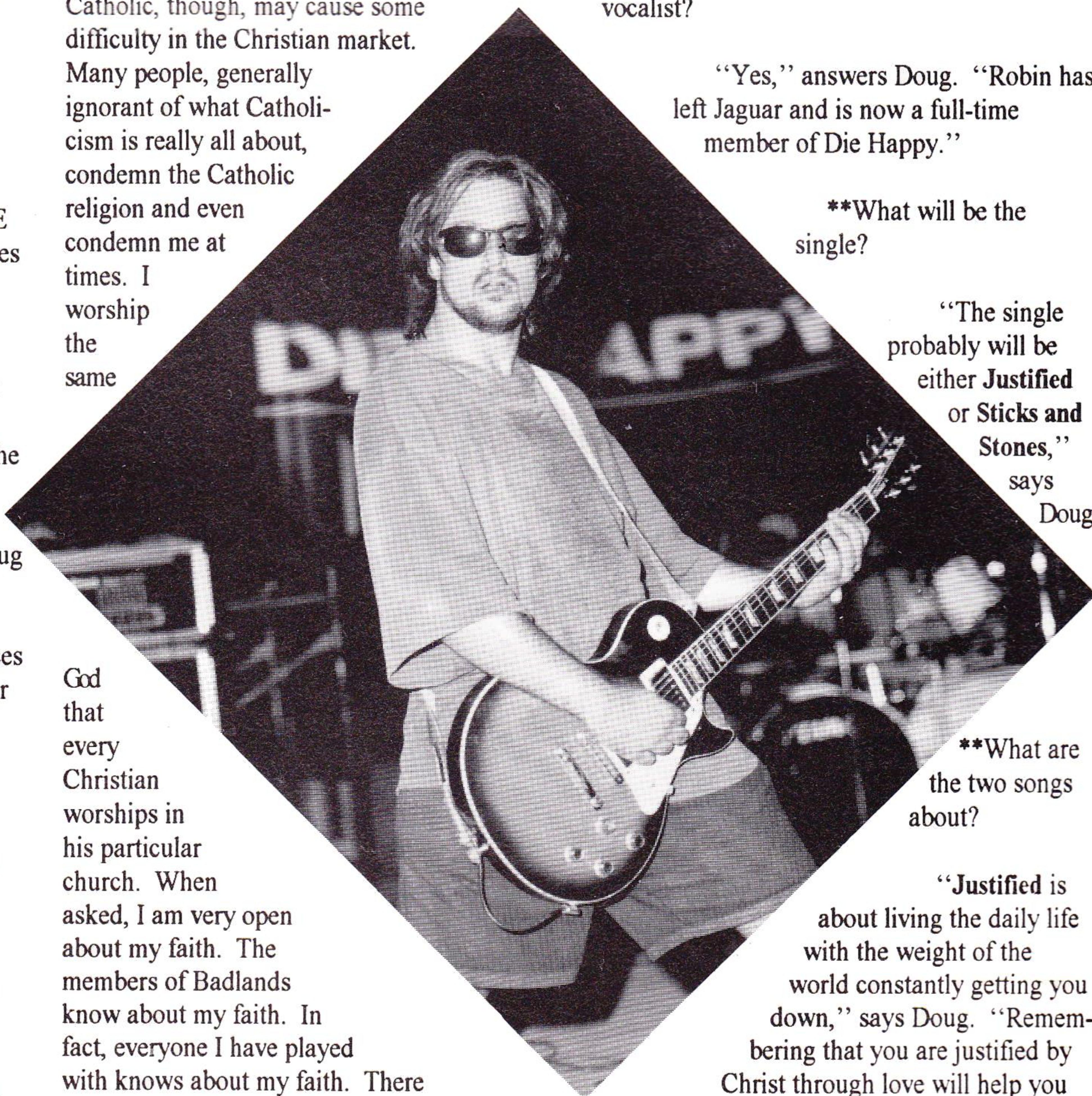
****What are the two songs about?**

"**Justified** is about living the daily life with the weight of the world constantly getting you down," says Doug. "Remembering that you are justified by Christ through love will help you get through the down times."

"**Sticks and Stones** deals with all the problems that lie within the Christian world. People say one thing, and if you do not believe their doctrine exactly, they start throwing insults at you. **Sticks and Stones** reminds people that we are all Christians and need to get along. Christians should stop heaving insults on each other just because we disagree on minor points of issue."

****Greg, tell me about Cole's Atomic Funk Thang.**

"The song is an instrumental which I wrote entirely on the bass. The name for the song came about when my sixteen month old son Cole began dancing around to the song while I was playing it. On the intro to the song, I yell, 'Cole, this is gonna hurt me a lot more than it's gonna hurt you!' I said that because it is a phrase a father is noted for saying to his boy and because the song is so fast that it hurt me to play it."





****Larry, are you still playing with Precious Death?**

"I filled in with Precious Death for about a year playing live shows. I am not working with them anymore, though."

****What are your reflections on the first album, especially considering you had two number one metal songs on the Pure Rock Report?**

"We did not expect a number one song at all," admits Larry. "We are very thankful that it happened and that people liked the record. We were really blown away with the blessing."

****The song *Real*, which was one of the number one singles, sounds very similar to Metallica's *Enter Sandman*. Is *Real* an intentional rip-off of the Metallica tune?**

"The similarity was a total coincidence," states Doug. "Die Happy is not into stealing other group's riffs. *Real* was written long before *Enter Sandman* was released. When we heard the song, the Die Happy record was just being finished: We wondered, 'Should we scrap the song?' If we had known exactly how much *Real* sounds like *Sandman*, we would have at least gone back and changed the beginning and made it a little different. We did not realize how close it really was until our album came out. I thought the similarity would ruin the whole song, but the song still did well."

"Re-tracking everything is also a very big process," says Larry, "unless the group has a big budget. We did not. It is only the beginning of the song, though, that is really the bummer. The beginning is the only part of the song that really sounds like *Enter*

Sandman."

Robin Kyle

****Will there be a tour?**

"We are looking at setting up a summer tour," says Doug.

****I recently saw a Die Happy show and was impressed by the stage show, which included a good deal of pyrotechnics (fire, explosions). Will Die Happy have the same stage show on tour?**

"We are limited in the places where we can play," says Doug, "because we never go anywhere without a stage show. Anyone looking to see a Die Happy concert should be prepared for a decent amount of flames and explosions. Our road manager is an incredible pyrotechnist."

"A good live show is important," says Larry, "because people are going to the show to experience visually the performance that they have always heard. People need that extra push over the edge when they see a band live. Otherwise, they could have just stayed home and played the record. Concerning Die Happy, we strive to make our shows captivating and enjoyable. We want people to have a good time when they see us."

****Do you have any final comments?**

"We appreciate when people write to us," says Doug. "If anyone would like to write us, our mailing address is P.O. Box 4130, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. Please write us, talk to us, and tell us what you think about our music. We love reading the letters; they are incredible. We also like when people send their pictures, because it makes it a more personal relationship. We love meeting and hearing from anybody."

HM

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**Meet Guardian
and the Brave!**

XL & D.B.D. In America



Heaven's Metal writer David Jenison talks with rapper XL about his upcoming album, which is a fusion of rap and thrash metal.

****Your upcoming album, "SODOM AND AMERICA," has a style that will make the album unique in the Christian music industry. How would you describe the musical style?**

"**"SODOM AND AMERICA,"** states XL, "is the first Christian album that is in its entirety a combination of rap and thrash metal. The album has been compared mainly with Bodycount and, in some ways, with the funk rock style of the Red Hot Chili Peppers. My vocals are different than Ice-T's

(Bodycount), though, because while I primarily rap, he tends more to yell. Musically, the album is wild, trashy, sloppy rock. By sloppy, I do not mean that the album is filled with errors and mistakes. Rather, I am saying the album has a wild, out of control feel that makes it seem like it was recorded live. The big question concerning this album will be where it will go in the Christian bookstores--under metal or rap?"

****Originally, the album was supposed to be pure hip-hop. Why the change to thrash metal?**

"Rock is my first love. When I was younger, I listened to bands like Nazareth, Judas Priest and Led Zeppelin. I was a total

rocker. I used to play guitar all the time, and eventually I learned to play the bass and drums. Accordingly, the idea of doing a metal album appealed to me.

"Furthermore, my label (BAI) was hinting about such a change. With SFC, Freedom of Soul and The Dynamic Twins, BAI already has enough hip-hop. They did not want another. Therefore, when the label started dropping hints, I just went with the flow and agreed to change styles. The only difficulty with the change was that I was entering the studio in only two weeks. Though I was entirely prepared for the hip-hop album, I had to start from scratch for the thrash album. Believe me, I had a hard two weeks of preparation."

****With only two weeks to prepare, how can the album be any good?**

"That is what I thought going into the studio. However, the album came out terrific. I had help from other artists who made guest appearances. Mostly, though, the hand of God was all over the project. I believe the change was God's direction, and so He blessed the album by making it turn out great. I am very proud of the album."

****What artists make appearances on the album?**

"Crucified guitarist Greg Minier does a guitar solo. Crucified vocalist Mark Soloman did some lead vocals on the song, 'Sodom and America.' Soloman, though in a thrash band himself, is also a big rap fan. He did a solo album recently, which was rap. Deliverance guitarist and vocalist Jimmy Brown helped me with my guitar work. Jimmy could be rightly called my guitar producer. He also did some guitar solos. Doug Shumway, who will be in the band, does bass on three tracks. Chris Cooper from the rap group Soldier for Christ (SFC) raps on the song 'Death Before Dishonor,' which is also the name of my band. Deliverance's lead guitarist, Mike Phillips, and Adam Again's Greg Lawless also make appearances on the album. Everything else--bass, guitars, drums, rhythms--were all done by me."

****Did you have any help writing the lyrics?**

"The lyrics on two of my songs were written by other people. Poetic Lee from the rap group Freedom of Soul wrote the lyrics for 'Kiss of Chaos,' and Jason Martin from Dance House Children wrote the lyrics for

'Sifting With the Sickle.' James Timony also helped me write lyrics on a few songs."

****What else can you tell us about your band?**

"As I said before, the band is called DBD, standing for Death Before Dishonor. I have a band together, but I am not sure if the current line-up will remain. I will definitely be doing live shows, though, even if it is not with the current line-up."

****Are you planning to tour on your first album?**

"I hope so. I have already talked with some major Christian metal bands about the idea. Some ideas are being bounced around, but nothing is definite yet."

****What ideas are behind the song "Sodom and America?"**

"The song name, which comes from the title of the album, came to me one morning while I was in bed. I was considering various album titles, but I had not yet come to a conclusion. Then one morning, the title 'Sodom and America' just came to me."

"The song itself is about American values, and how they have reached an all time low. The parallel, of course, is to Sodom and Gomorrah, two cities destroyed for their abundance of sin. America, though, is sinning far worse than Sodom and Gomorrah."

"Everyone has the 'God bless America' syndrome, praising America as the greatest nation on Earth. America may be great, but in the spiritual realm the nation is grotesque. The country is a spiritual mess."

"The people of Sodom had no idea that God was going to destroy their city. Maybe God is going to likewise judge America, and we also have no idea that it is going to happen. The message of the song is simple: It is time for America to get right with God."

****What kind of ministry do you hope to accomplish through your music?**

"First of all, let it be known that ministry is the heart of Death Before Dishonor. Having become burned out on rap music in the past year, I started checking out the Christian metal scene. The concerts were great, and I really enjoyed the mosh pits, but I noticed that very few bands did any ministry. Recalling all the Christian rap shows I went to, I remember that there was always a message and an altar call. At the metal shows, rarely was there either. So the kids going to these metal shows might as well have gone to a secular metal show like Slayer--though the secular show would probably have been better."

"I was really disappointed, because

these are the kids that need to hear the Gospel. I would see kids running into the mosh pit with Crucified beanies, but yelling 'I'm Jesus.' Other kids are there wearing blatantly blasphemous metal shirts. Metal is the home of the wildest kids, and I want to put more ministry into the wildest homes."

****What have you done before this album?**

"I have recorded some material in the hip-hop arena in the past few years. I helped the Dynamic Twins on both their albums. I sing and rap on their first album, and I sing and play bass and guitar on their new one. I also played bass and guitar on the new Apocalypse. I have a song called 'It's Christmas Time' on the Arcade Christmas album--'KOOL YULE.' I also had a hip-hop

demo out called, 'THIS ISN'T YOUR EVERYDAY ORDINARY RAP.'"

****Does "XL" stand for anything?**

"XL stands for Extra Large, because I am a big boy!"

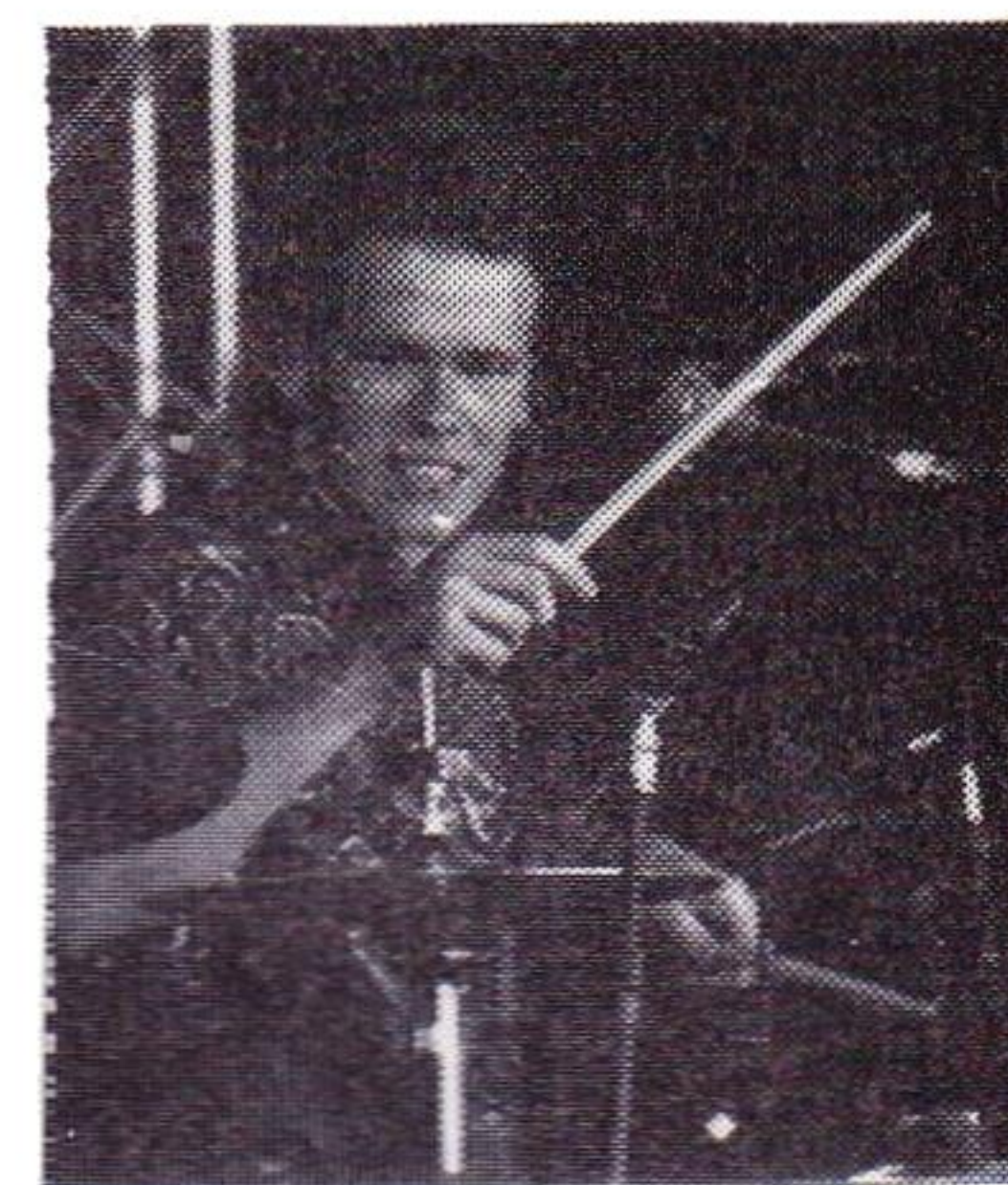
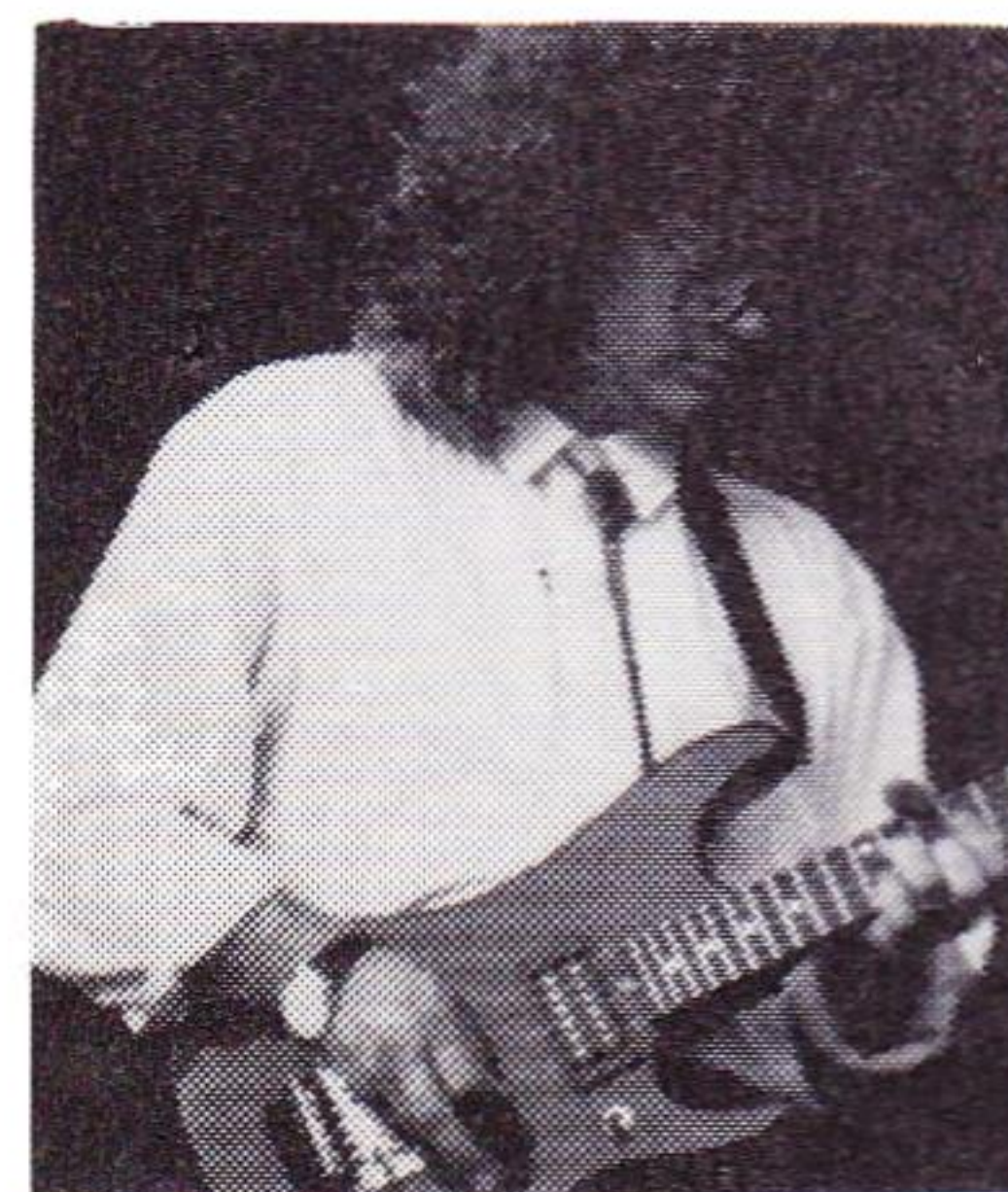
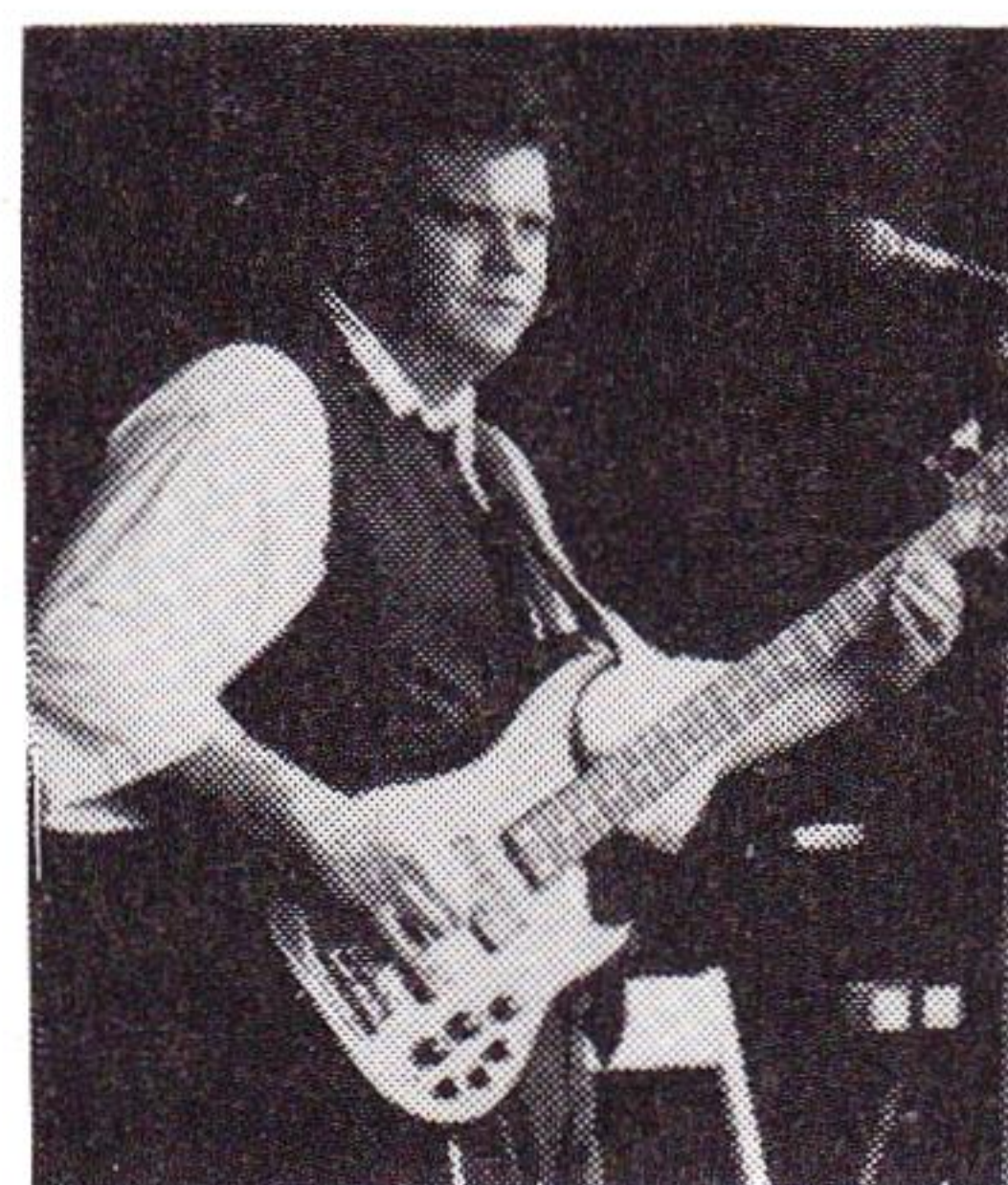
****Do you have any closing comments?**

"Certainly. I want everybody who listens to my album to appreciate it for its quality, and not only because it is a black dude doing rock. My aim is not to be a black crossing over into music that is traditionally white. My aim was to do music that I enjoy and that I can minister through. I am very proud of the album, and I cannot wait for everyone to hear it." HM

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What Living Colour Sez:



LC l-r: William Calhoun, Doug Wimbish, Vernon Reid & Corey Glover

This issue our "What So and So Sez" column puts us in contact with Corey Glover of Living Colour. Corey was in his manager's office in New York and HM editor DVP was in his office. 2,000 miles of phone lines connected the two. Listen in to what went down.

******Congratulations on a great sounding new album. I understand you had an interesting experience recording this album in a barn. How did that go?

"We did a lot of that in Longview Farms up in Massachusetts. There was one night that we were doing a vocal late at night. We kept hearing this noise, this creaking thing and there was nothing we could do about it. Finally we found the beam that was creaking and went downstairs to where it eventually ended up. It was a horse scratching himself on this beam! He just wouldn't stop. He had a great time scratching his backside.

"It's a really great place to record for some people, because it's quiet and you can really get work done, because you can concentrate on what you're doing."

******I really appreciate the conviction and passion I feel when I hear a song like "Go Away" and "Open Letter To A Landlord." What is your motivation when singing songs like that?

"You've got to think of it in terms of a character or how you would react given certain possibilities. If this were happening to you, what would you do? If you felt that this was your lot in life and this is how you felt, what would you do?"

******Are you guys trying to bring about change with tunes like "Mind Your Own Business?" I notice a lot of the lyrics, like "Elvis is Dead" or even "This is the Life" are kind of almost saying, "Wake up and get a life!"

"I don't think songs like 'Mind Your Own Business' are actually saying, 'Get your life together.' I think a song with a title like 'Mind Your Own Business' is self-explanatory, but you can read a lot of things into it. You can say to yourself, that it could be about, as you say, finding your own peace of mind, finding your own life and getting out

of other people's lives. It could be just telling people, you know, 'Just back up off me! Stop telling me who I am. I am who I am. You can't tell me what I am.'"

******Do you ever sit back and think of Living Colour having a purpose that's maybe unique from another band, like specifically with lyrics or what you say from the stage?

"Nah, it's basically how I'm feeling at that particular time and feeling it about something. 'STAIN' is talking about things that are in our heads, as opposed to things going on around us. This is a little more inward than it is outward. Although things on the last two records were very personal, they were things happening around us and happening to us; but the things on 'STAIN' are things going on inside of our heads and how it affects how we feel with everything around us. A song like 'Ignorance is Bliss' or 'Never Satisfied,' or even 'Go Away' is about dealing with yourself and handling yourself and handling those little demons. Even 'Go Away' is about handling those things that are in your head that you think about but don't ever say. The fact that you think about them gives them credence."

******It's obvious by lyrics, like those in "Go Away" that Living Colour is aware that the American greed dream is an empty one and that there's more to life than material things. What is your perspective on the spiritual world behind the physical realm?

"Hmmm. Well, I personally believe that there are things beyond the tangible. There are things that you can find beyond the tangible, things that are not...I guess you could call it 'other worldly,' but that is exclusive as one's own thoughts. Find those things in your own thoughts in dealing with your self. The more you deal with yourself and deal with your thoughts and deal with your inner self, the closer you can get to something intangible, something that you cannot touch. I don't think that you'll ever get to that point to where you can touch the untouchables, but it takes some time. It takes some time to really deal with yourself."

******What's been your experience and/or exposure to God?

"Church and God have been a major, major influence on my ability to sing. I grew up in the church. I sang in church choirs. I have this philosophy about finding truth, ie. God through finding yourself. The closer you get to yourself, the closer you get to knowing what you know about yourself and the things

that you have discovered about yourself, the closer you get to your ideal or idea of God."

****How do you personally feel about Jesus Christ?**

"I think that He's done...He makes a lot of...this falls into my idea about God Himself: I think Jesus Christ epitomized someone who knew all that He knew about the world and Himself. As an example to everyone else that you can be this perfect. That nothing is unattainable and that nothing is without any sacrifice. And that nothing that you cannot visualize or realize cannot happen."

****What do you think about His claims to be the Way, the Truth and the Life and that "no one comes to the Father but by Me?"**

"I would probably guess that He means by His example...by the life He led and by leading by example that you cannot get to God or the Kingdom of Heaven without dealing with life in a way that He dealt with His life."

****So, in your opinion, it would be like (Corey pauses to go to the bathroom) you would follow how Christ was in tune maybe with Himself and how He "touched the untouchable;" that in following His steps is the way to the Father. Would you say that's opposed to Orthodox Christianity that says, "Accepting the sacrificial death of Christ is the way to open the door to that?"**

"I don't know about His death, but I think...I don't think that by death that you get closer to God. For me, there's a lot of symbolism in that, in order to get to certain places that you have to obtain certain things and understand that not many people will understand that, that you will be persecuted because of that. People will alienate you because you believe in yourself, because you think for yourself; not knowing that, in turn, helping yourself helps others."

****I can relate to that, because, obviously we've all seen people that get concerned about a list of rules or rituals and then they look down their nose at other people and they just point their finger at other people that aren't toting the line, and they're not really tending their own garden. They're not really cultivating their own virtues and following Christ. But, on the other hand, do you see that it can also be kind of a denial of...let's say of the symbolic dying to yourself and being crucified with Christ and being raised with Him...if the focus is solely on being like Christ and not partaking of... I guess Orthodox Christianity says, "If you accept His death for your sins, then you are credited righteousness**

and you are saved." Does your philosophy contradict that, or does it line up with that?

"It lines up in a way. I mean, you have to accept that, in a way you accept the fact that His death was there for your example. I think you have to accept the fact that He was persecuted because He did these things and still kept His faith and His beliefs about Himself and the world around Him and His understanding of Himself and the world around Him. As you understand that these things are necessary for you to become more in tune with yourself and more intuitive about yourself to touch the untouchable, the closer you are to dealing with it, just as He had to. I mean, in His own temptation, He questioned for a second."

****Do you not think that it's actually something bigger than just Christ being a man who believed in Himself and what His views were of the world around him? Do you think it's more than just Somebody standing up for what He believed in?**

"Oh yeah, it was a much bigger picture, but the most immediate thing I think about His life and the things that He was going through at that particular time was that He led by example, just as our religious leaders are

supposed to do, our political leaders are supposed to do, or anyone that you look up to...not to emulate them, you don't follow chapter and verse everything that this person does, because as specific and as different as that individual is; but you lead by example. My life is led this way, it doesn't mean that your life should be led this way, but is it a self account of you?"

****There's lots of golden nuggets there.**

"Well, I have another interview to do. It was a pleasure talking to you."

****I want to tell you that I really appreciate you as an artist. I really feel like you are an artist. You're not putting out a bunch of cheap garbage. I appreciate the fact that you're real. I do these interviews...Heaven's Metal is a magazine that focuses mostly on the Christian heavy metal/hard rock genre and with every issue I always interview some band or artist that doesn't necessarily fit into that little label and just kind of get where they're coming from and give them a chance to articulate where they're coming from and hear where we're coming from. I'll definitely send you a copy of the story. HM**

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Readers



FAVORITE SINGER

Dale Thompson (Bride)

- 2 Jimmy Brown (Deliverance)
- 3 Steven Patrick (Holy Soldier)
- 4 Guy Ritter (Tourniquet)
- 5 Steve Rowe (Mortification)

FAVORITE ALBUM

"SNAKES IN THE PLAYGROUND"
(Bride)

- 2 "STAY OF EXECUTION"
(Deliverance)
- 3 "SCROLLS OF THE MEGILLOTH"
(Mortification)
- 4 "KING'S X"
- 5 "DIE HAPPY"

FAVORITE SONG

"PSYCHEDELIC SUPER JESUS"
(Bride)

- 2 "RATTLESNAKE" (Bride)
- 3 "REAL" (Die Happy)
- 4 "WOULD YOU DIE FOR ME?"
(Bride)
- 5 (tie) "PRISONER" (King's X)
& "LAST TRAIN" (Holy Soldier)

FAVORITE LIVE BAND

Bride

- 2 Whitecross
- 3 One Bad Pig
- 4 Tourniquet
- 5 The Crucified

FAVORITE GRUNGE/ ALTERNO-METAL BAND

Applehead

- 2 (tie) Dig Hay Zoose
& Mad At The World
- 3 Mortal
- 4 Circle of Dust
- 5 (tie) Die Happy
& Undercover

FAVORITE GUITARIST

The "Heaven's Metal Guitar Hero" Award

Lanny Cordola

- 2 Troy Thompson (Bride)
- 3 Dennis Cameron (Angelica)
- 4 (tie) Gary Lenaire (Tourniquet)
& Jeff Scheetz
- 5 (tie) Ty Tabor (King's X)
& Greg Minier (Crucified)

FAVORITE VIDEO

"Weapons Of Our Warfare"
(Deliverance)

- 2 "The Ark of Suffering"
Tourniquet
- 3 "Before The Time"
Vengeance Rising
- 4 "Power of Love"
Guardian
- 5 "Never Say Goodbye"
Guardian

FAVORITE UNSIGNED BAND

Sardonyx

- 2 Precious Death
- 3 Consecrator
- 4 (tie) Jaguar
& Stryper
- 5 (tie) Thresher
& The Moshketeers

FAVORITE CUSTOM TAPE PRECIOUS DEATH

- 2 Sardonyx
- 3 Moshketeers
- 4 Rev. Seven
- 5 (tie) Hot Pink Turtle
& The Terminal Generation
& Overdrive

OVERALL FAVORITE BAND

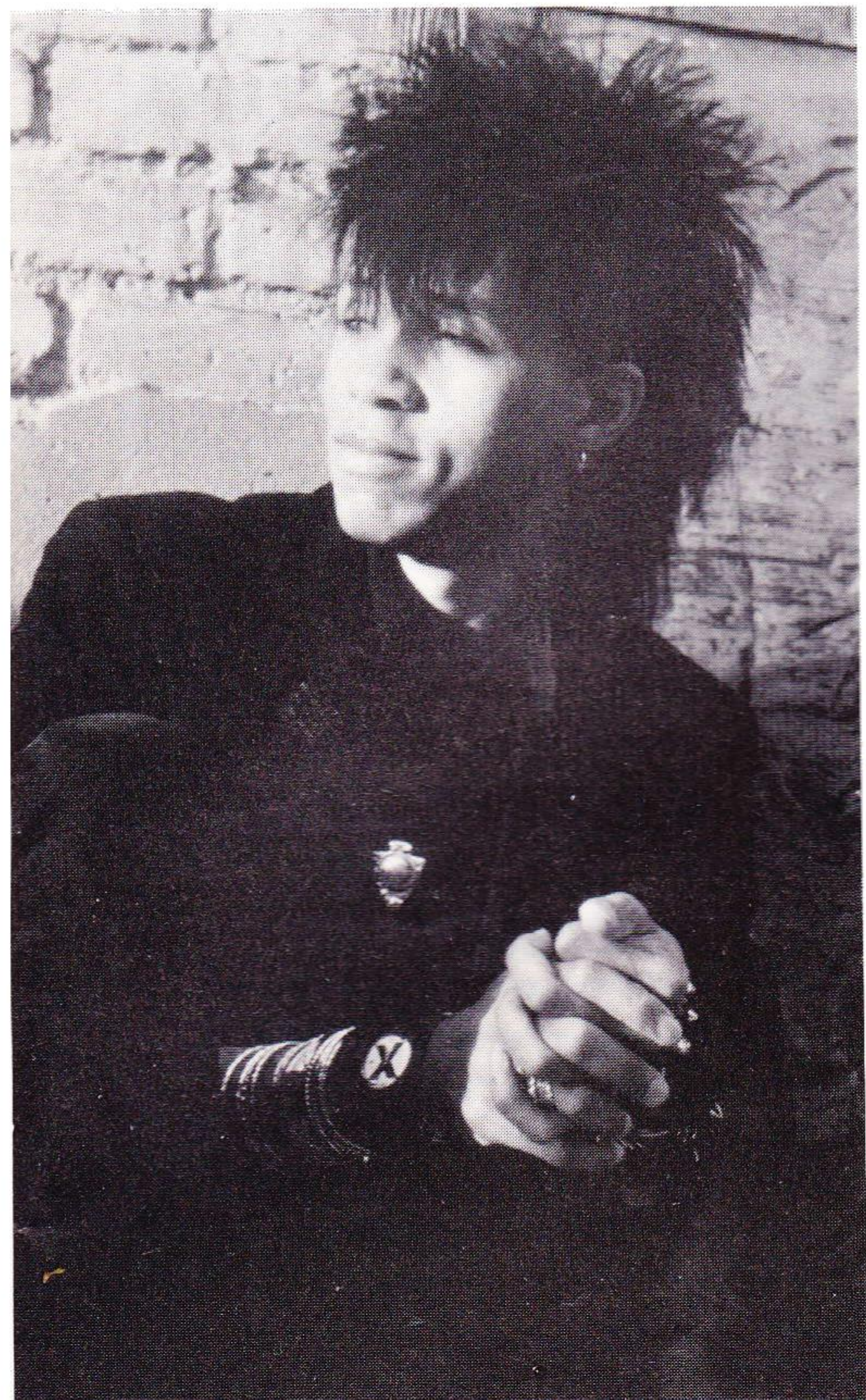
Bride

- 2 Tourniquet
- 3 King's X
- 4 Whitecross
- 5 Deliverance



Poll

1992



FAVORITE BASSIST

Doug Pinnick (King's X)

- 2 Victor Macias (Tourniquet)
- 3 Steve Rowe (Mortification)
- 4 Rick Foley (Bride)
- 5 Michael Bloodgood (Bloodgood)

FAVORITE LYRICIST

Roger Martinez

(Vengeance Rising)

- 2 Ted Kirkpatrick (Tourniquet)
- 3 Dale Thompson (Bride)
- 4 Jimmy Brown (Deliverance)
- 5 (tie) King's X
& Mortification

FAVORITE THRASH/ SPEED METAL BAND

Tourniquet

- 2 Deliverance
- 3 Mortification
- 4 Vengeance Rising
- 5 (tie) The Crucified
& Living Sacrifice

FAVORITE PRODUCER

John & Dino Elefante

- 2 Plinky
- 3 Terry Taylor
- 4 David Zaffiro
- 5 (tie) Bill Metoyer
& Roger Martinez

FAVORITE NEW BAND

Die Happy

- 2 The Brave
- 3 Betrayal
- 4 Circle of Dust
- 5 Mortal

COMEBACK OF THE YEAR

Deliverance

- 2 Bride
- 3 Vengeance Rising
- 4 Seraiah
- 5 (tie) Crystavox
& Holy Soldier

FAVORITE DRUMMER

Ted Kirkpatrick (Tourniquet)

- 2 Jayson Sherlock (Mortification)
- 3 Terry Russell (Holy Soldier)
- 4 Robert Sweet (Stryper)
- 5 Jerry McBroom (Bride)



FAVORITE ALBUM COVER

"SCROLLS OF THE MEGILLOTH"

(Mortification)

- 2 "KING'S X"
- 3 "FALL BABYLON FALL"
(Veni Domine)
- 4 "SNAKES IN
THE PLAYGROUND" (Bride)
- 5 "RELEASED UPON
THE EARTH" (Vengeance Rising)

FAVORITE ISSUE OF HM

Issue #37

- 2 #38
- 3 #35
- 4 #36
- 5 #33

FAVORITE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

George Bush (70%)

- 2 Ross Perot (13%)
- 3 Bill Clinton (6%)
- 4 Jesus Christ (3%)
- 5 (tie) Pastor Bob
& Doug Van Pelt

Pastor Bob



THE CLEANSING OF A PERVERT

As Frank entered my office, I could tell he was greatly troubled. He looked a little pale and his hands were sweating. As he sat and told me his story, I couldn't help but think about how many times I had heard it before! Problems with pornography, lust, sex with his girlfriend. Why do we fight so hard with this problem of uncontrolled sexuality?

I want to take you back to another time, to another guy who had the same problem. His name is David--King David, to be exact. You know, the guy who wrote most of the Psalms in the Bible? David was a man after God's heart. He was also a pervert!

You can read the story in II Samuel 11 & 12, but let me capsule it for you...

David's men are at war. One night David couldn't sleep, so he got up and went to the roof garden of his palace. As he looked over the city, he saw Bathsheba bathing herself. David found himself so consumed with lustful passion for her, that he sent for her--and she responded! After they spent the night together, she returned home to her husband.

Later, Bathsheba notified David that she was going to have his baby as a result of their one-night stand. So, David sent Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, into battle. He gave instructions to one of the commanders to put Uriah on the front line in a place of great danger. As a result, Uriah was killed, which is what David had hoped would happen.

Following a period of mourning by the widow, David sent for her and brought her to his house. She became his wife and bore the child they conceived together. Then, to add to David's grief over his sin, the child that was

conceived died. Can you imagine how David must have felt? Sure you can! We have all been at a place in our lives where we are overwhelmed with our sin, and feel deep remorse and shame for what we've done! But what do we do about it? How do we deal with sin--especially sexual sin?

We can learn a lot by looking at the example of David. Take just a minute, and grab your Bible. Turn to Psalm 51. Why don't you put the magazine down and read it, then we'll continue our discussion...

Psalm 51 tells us how David reacted when he was confronted with his sin. Verse 4, "Against You, and only You have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight..." The Bible only offers one solution to the problem of sin: confession! David didn't pass the buck. David had no plea of innocence. David didn't say, "Bathsheba made me do it!" There was no psychological rationalization. There was no situation ethics. There was no self-justification! David assumed full responsibility for his conduct and for his sin! David had come to a place where he was able to see his sin through the eyes of God. He was sick in his heart and convicted in his soul!

David asked for cleansing--and he received it! In the battle over sin, cleansing always follows confession. I John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." There's hope! There's a remedy for sin! There is a way out!

David asks God for mercy in verse 1: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love..." This is always the beginning place for a guilty sinner! Then David asks for forgiveness: "...according to Your great compassion, blot out my transgressions." But David knew that wasn't enough. He goes on in verse 2: "Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin." Not only does David need God's continued help in dealing with his past--but the pollution of his present sin needs divine intervention!

Forgiveness is not just dealing with your past. It is purging the present! In verse 10, David says, "Create in me a clean heart, O God..." Modern day psychology says you're okay as long as you've been "healed" from your past. That's not true! We still sin! We still need confession and cleansing!

Then, David asks for a right spirit: "...renew a right spirit within me." We will never be at the place where we need to be, unless there is a "right" spirit within us! The only right spirit is the one that is born of and accompanied by the Holy Spirit. David continues: "Restore unto me the joy of Your

salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me." It is possible to lose the joy of a possession without losing the possession itself! Have you ever bought a new car? The day you buy it, it becomes your most prized possession. You can't imagine ever feeling any other way about it! But, as the years go by and the car accumulates a few dents and scratches, you lose the excitement and the joy you had when it was new! Is it possible to do that with God? Yes! And many of you have! David doesn't ask you to get saved again! He just wants the joy of his salvation returned. That's why David asks the Lord to give him a willing spirit! Sound familiar? David wants a willing heart. He wants a heart that's open for God's teaching and instruction.

Then, after all of this, David asks for deliverance. Verse 14: "Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God Who saves me..." David wants deliverance from the blood-guiltiness of the past, from the pain of his present conscience, and from the destruction of tomorrow's temptations.

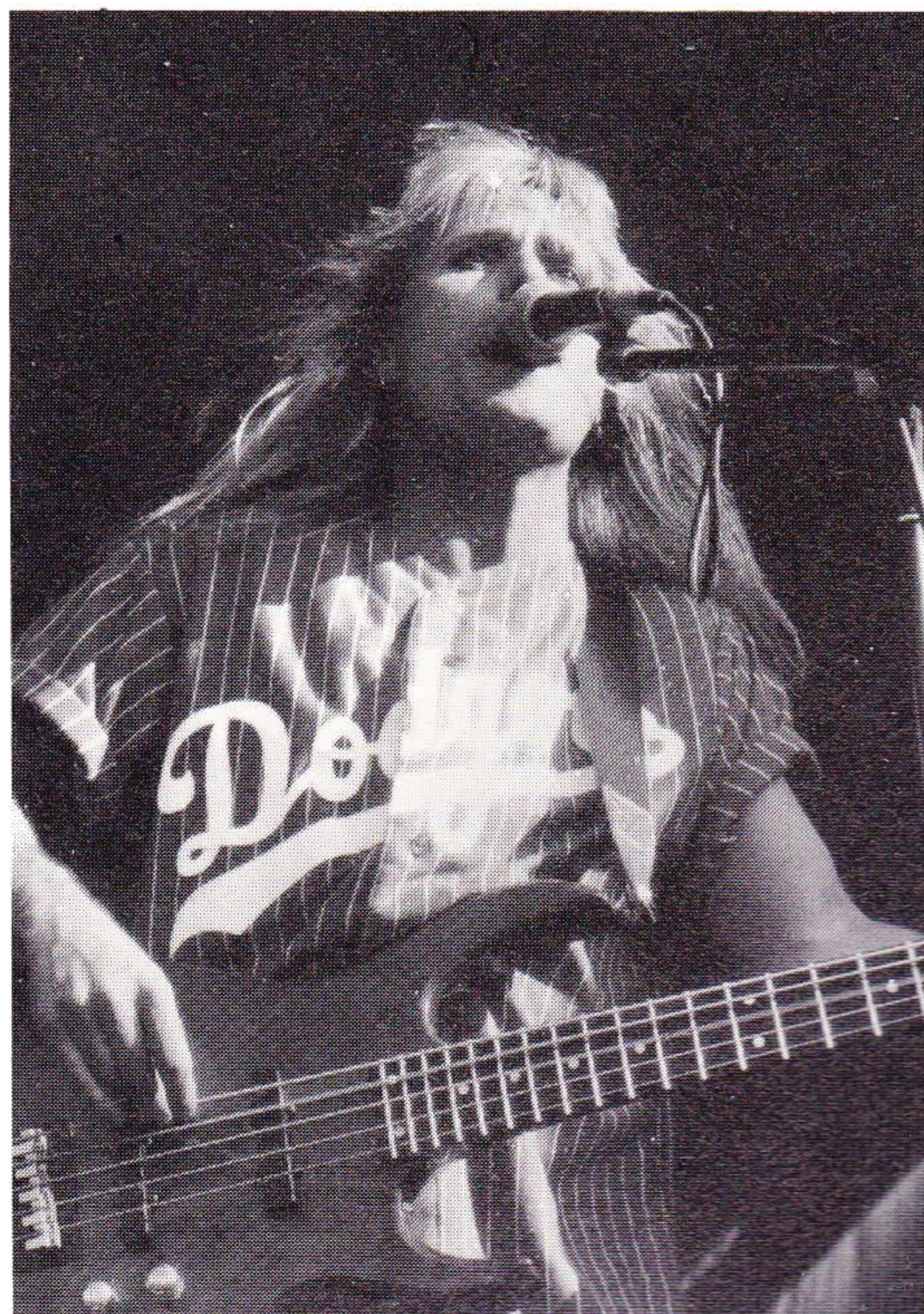
The most important "liberation movement" is the movement of the Spirit of God in the hearts of people. Verse 17 says, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise." Here is a principle that operates in natural life. Flowers grow because the ground has been broken for their planting. Bread is the product of broken grain. The meat of the nut is available only when the shell is broken. An egg is broken before it becomes edible. The sweetest perfume is the product of crushed flowers. This is also true of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was a carpenter with souls as well as with wood. One of the works of a carpenter is to fix broken things. Christ takes your broken heart and makes it new! Jesus can take your struggles and perversion and "fix" you too! Review this Psalm of David, and use it as an outline as you deal with your sin. God is still specializing in forgiveness and deliverance!

If you need someone to talk to, remember that the Sanctuary 800 Lines are available 24 hours a day. In the U.S. and Canada, call toll free 1-800-548-5222.

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INSIDE/OUT By DAVID BACH



David Bach (Photo by Steve Craig)

Hey Doods!

I've been a busy fool again! I need to learn something about time management. But I am actually writing this column a few days before it is due (A first!). It is always hurriedly faxed in way past all conceivable deadlines, much to our dear editor's chagrin.

Well, I said I wouldn't do a plug here, but I'm gonna anyway (See!...all musicians are flakes). Our new record is finally finished. It is called "MIRACLE MILE." Please buy lots of copies. If you buy 8 CD's, you'll have a lovely set of nifty drink coasters. I also found that Guardian cassettes work great for balancing that one bad table leg and... Anyway, the record company actually let me do the cover and the other art elements! I was stunned! (...maybe they read this column?!)

In our last episode, our heroes had found themselves trapped in Joker's dungeon (Whoops! Wrong story...or is it?). Seriously, the Tortured Virtue record had finally been released. The fateful day finally came when Jimmy walked into his local record store and proudly purchased a real copy of "PANCREATIC MAN." Over the counter! In a real record store! It was really happening! The album was truly a national release!

After buying up nearly every spare copy in a fifty mile radius, our friends realized it was time to start planning for the tour. Bert Weaselman had actually got them some decent dates. The band was most excited that they were going to actually play the hallowed Boulderdash Festival! (Bert Weaselman had forgot to tell them that they weren't actually on the festival bill, but he had arranged with the

maintenance man at the festival grounds to let the band plug into a spare outlet) The only problem is that there were three or four days between each date.

Our friends were stunned to think that someone was actually going to pay them \$500 a show and they hastily ignored some of these small details in their excitement to begin prepping for "The Tortured Virtue World Blitz." Jimmy had stayed up the night before, carefully planning and estimating everything that TV would need for the tour. When the band members met the following day, Jimmy informed the guys of their options. "Dudes! Things are going to be a little different than we thought. Uncle Jake says the record company can't give us any of that tour support, because they are currently investing in the interior decoration of their corporate offices and..."

"So how big is our bus?" interrupted Max impatiently. "I want my own lounge like those guys in Steel Pendulum and..."

"Relax Max!" interjected Ace, "Let Jimmy finish giving us the lowdown!" Jimmy went on to explain that there would be no bus or P.A. company or crew or anything. "We are gonna have to sell an awful lot of our shirts just to break even," sighed Jimmy. The guys were stunned, but quickly decided that they had to have their own vehicle, cuz Jimmy's old gear wagon was on its last legs. Since Ace was the only member of the band with good credit, it was decided that he and his wife would sign for the purchase of a brand new camper rig that had two beds, a deluxe folding card table and a mini television with a VCR. If they could not have a tour bus, at least they would travel the world in style.

Sound pretty cool? This could all be a nightmare just waiting to happen (...Again, trust me on this one!). Our friends are laboring under the common illusion that touring is this magical realm where pumpkins turn into tour buses and professional crew people work for free, cuz they are soooo...into your ministry. Let's throw a bucket of water on the tour myth. Touring is just like planning a long driving trip to go see Aunt Rhodle in Montana. You had better sit down and figure what you need for gas and transportation and food (even if you request food in your concert rider, you should plan on a meager \$15 a day--everyday for each person).

When you're a young band, 500 bucks a gig is cool, but you had better figure out every little cost for each and every day that you are on the road or you will be stunned when you reach your hand in the kitty and there is nothing there. I wish I could do a realistic tour budget here, but space won't allow it. Sit all the guys down and make sure everybody understands that you will probably

make 1/3 to 1/2 less than your day job when you first start touring. A good tour budget covers all expenses and your meager salaries. Your merchandise should be extra gravy, but that is in a perfect touring world (and I can't tell you how many times our merch has saved our hindquarters from fiscal ruin!). Expect poorly promoted shows, crummy P.A.'s and cold pizza...and you'll have a great tour! I'm serious! Plan for reality and you'll have a killer time, meet great people and see real ministry happen. You won't come home rich, though--I guarantee it! As for Ace being the co-signer for the band vehicle...Don't do it! You have to make that payment year round, and nobody tours 12 months a year. Besides...all musicians are flakes.

C-Ya!

"Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold." (Proverbs 3:13-14)

"Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor." (Proverbs 18:12)

"My son, preserve sound judgement and discernment, do not let them out of your sight; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck." (Proverbs 3:21-22)

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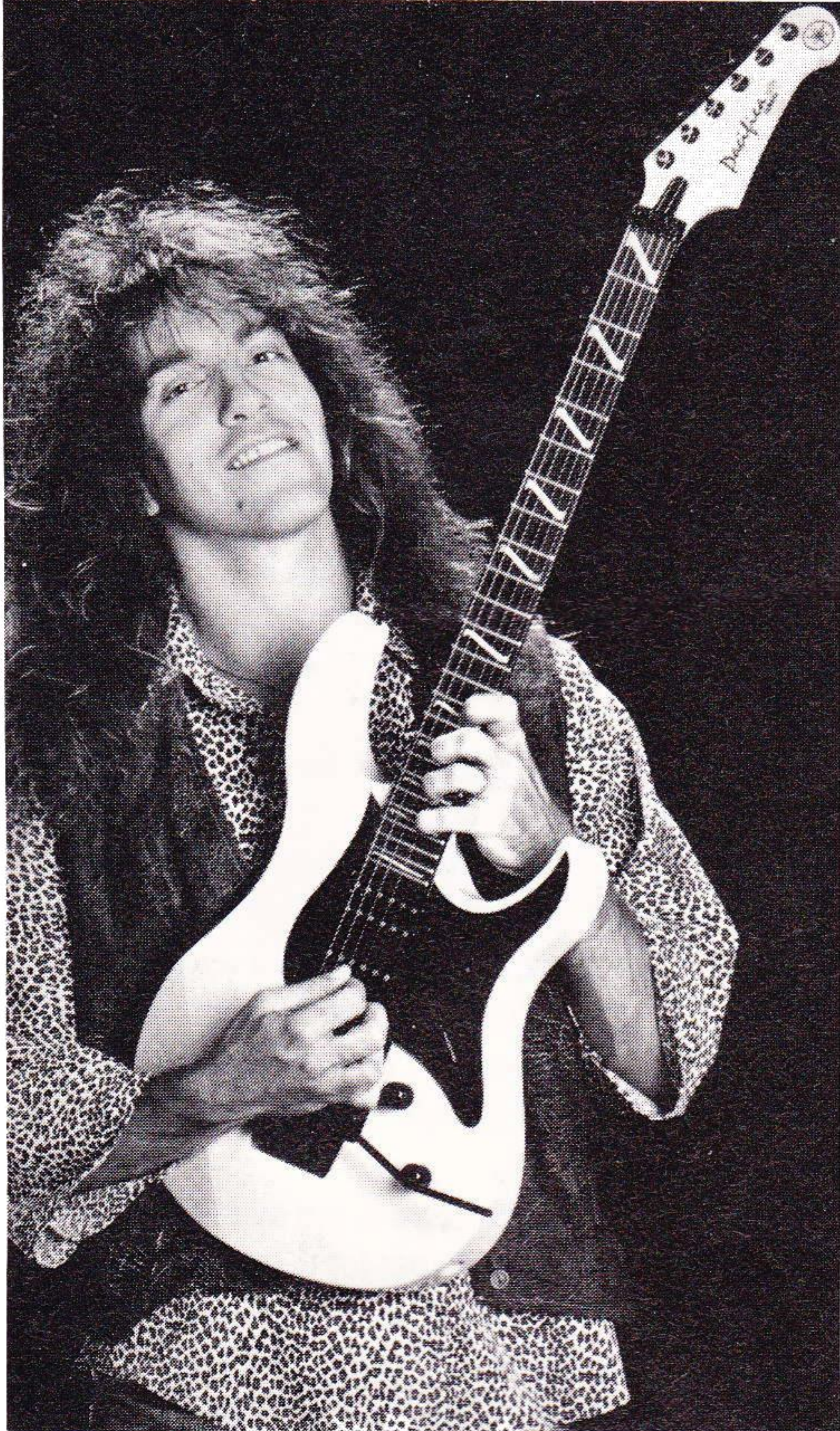
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LICKS & TRICKS By Jeff Scheetz

TOURS



METAL RADIO CHART

Here are the TOP 20 METAL SINGLES (reprinted courtesy The CCM Update) as of February 15th:

- 1 "Pathogenic Ocular Dissonance"
Tourniquet
- 2 "Cage"
Die Happy
- 3 "Dead End Drive"
Holy Soldier
- 4 "Wisdom Calls"
Veni Domine
- 5 "Bang The Drum"
Fighter
- 6 "Rattlesnake"
Bride
- 7 "Six Feet Under"
Applehead
- 8 "Hell House"
Godsent Humans
- 9 "Corridor To Light"
Sardonyx
- 10 "Lord Of Dreams"
Deliverance
- 11 "Let's Make A Deal"
Ordained Fate
- 12 "Haunts Of Violence"
Sacrament
- 13 "Up At Night"
Liaison
- 14 "Paradise"
Crystavox
- 15 "Woody"
77's
- 16 "Stay Of Execution"
Deliverance
- 17 "Dancin' In Heaven"
Whitecross
- 18 "Who"
Crashdog
- 19 "Demons"
Rose
- 20 "The Obstinate Toy Soldiers"
Lanny Cordola

WHITECROSS

- 3/6 Fredericksburg VA 708-695-1444
3/19 to 3/27 SWEDEN
4/2 Rockford IL
4/3 Chicago IL
4/10 Evansville IN
4/16 Wichita KS
4/17 Omaha NE
4/23 Rawley NC
4/24 Charlotte NC
4/29 Peoria IL
4/30 Louisville KY
5/1 Springfield MO
5/2 Caney KS
5/7 Greenville IL
5/8 Versailles IN
5/14 Petoskey MI
5/15 Grand Rapids MI
5/16 Cass City MI
5/20 New Orleans LA
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- 3/12 Dallas TX 817-267-5000
3/13 Austin TX 512-264-2994
3/14 Corpus Christi TX 512-993-8923
3/18 Ft. Lauderdale FL 312-989-2351
3/20 Tampa FL 312-989-2351
3/21 Orlando FL 312-989-2351
3/27 Lafayette IN 312-989-2351

BRIDE

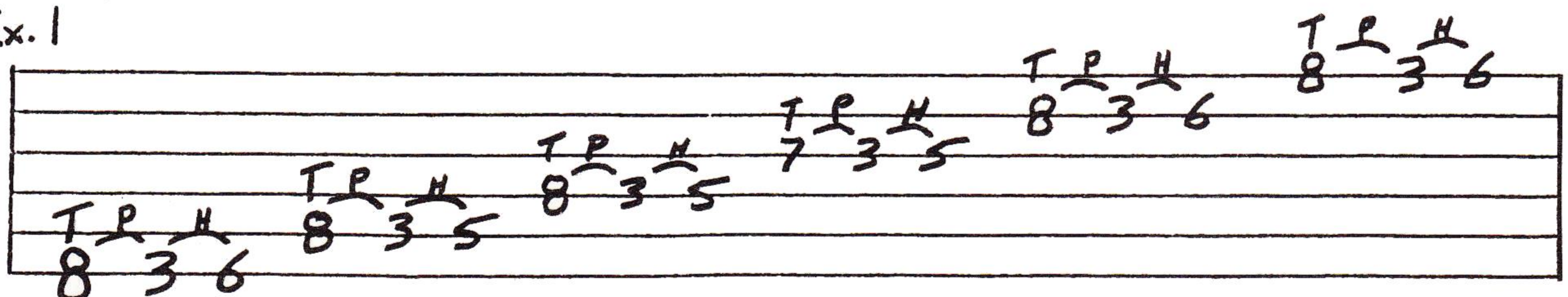
- 3/6 Bartelsville OK 502-231-0387
3/7 Tulsa OK
3/9 Amarillo TX
3/10 Lubbock TX
3/11 Dallas TX
3/12 San Antonio TX
4/2 Memphis TN
4/3 Biloxi MS
4/16 Shreveport LA
4/23 Hamilton OH
4/24 Boston MA
4/25 New York NY
4/30 Burlington VT
5/1 Concord NH
5/7 AGAPE '93 IL
5/8 AGAPE '93 IL
5/14 Hickory NC
5/15 Summerville SC

Well, we have one more concept in our pentatonic series for this issue. Two-hand scales. The version in example 1 is the basic "bare-bones" diagram of the technique.

You start out by tapping with your right hand (usually with either your index or middle finger) on the sixth string, eight fret. Pull this off to your left hand index finger at the third fret and then hammer on to the sixth fret with your left hand fourth finger. Repeat across all strings.

What you are doing is playing the first and second patterns of the G minor pentatonic scale together. Therefore, the next step would be using this technique on a number of different scale patterns. Play up it, down it, skip strings, move from one position to the next, double up on your taps or hammer-ons and pull-offs...experiment! And most important of all, have fun doing it! **HM**

Ex. 1



CRANIAL CATAclysm



LIVING SACRIFICE

Nonexistent

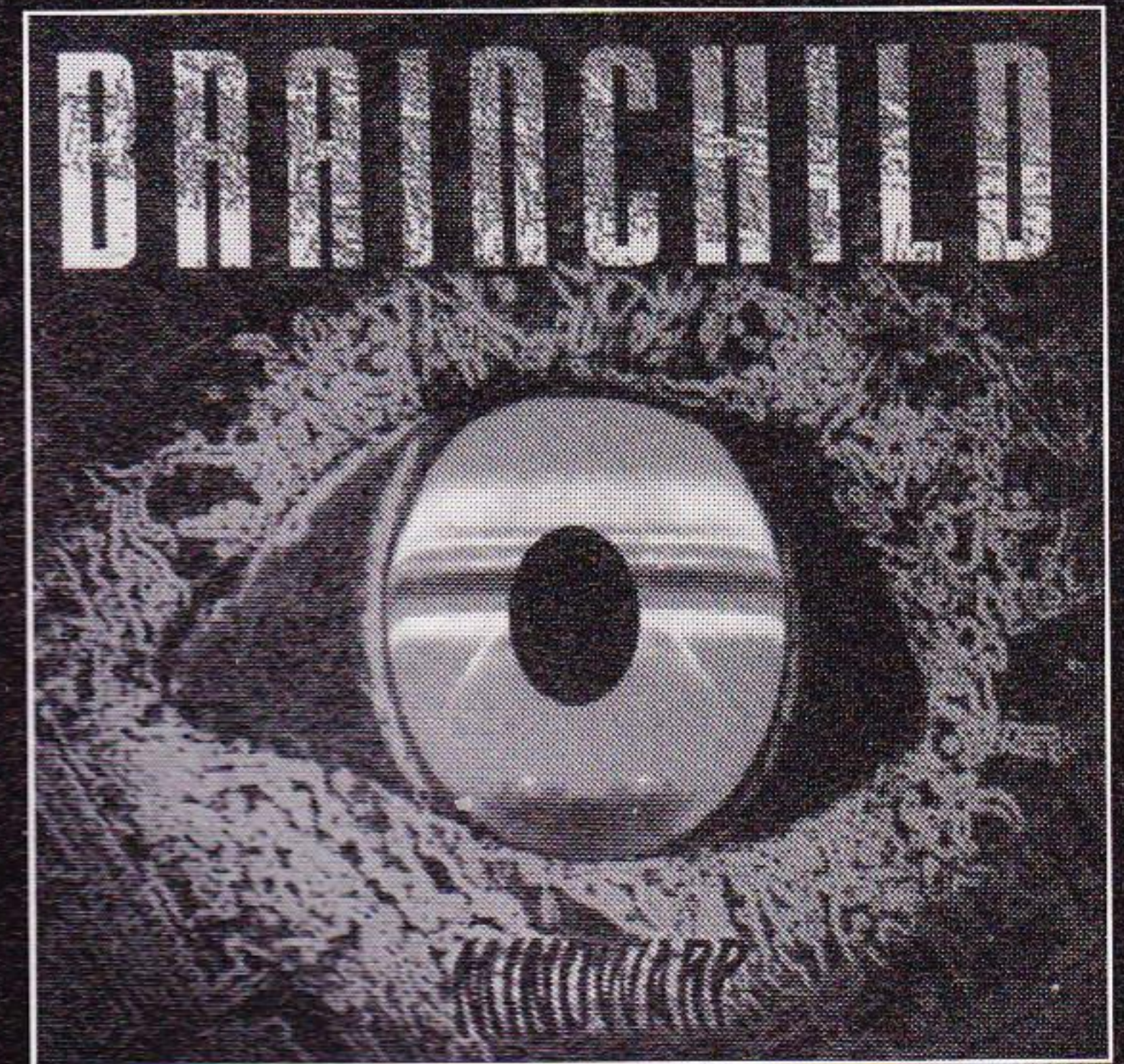
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VENI DOMINE

Fall Babylon Fall

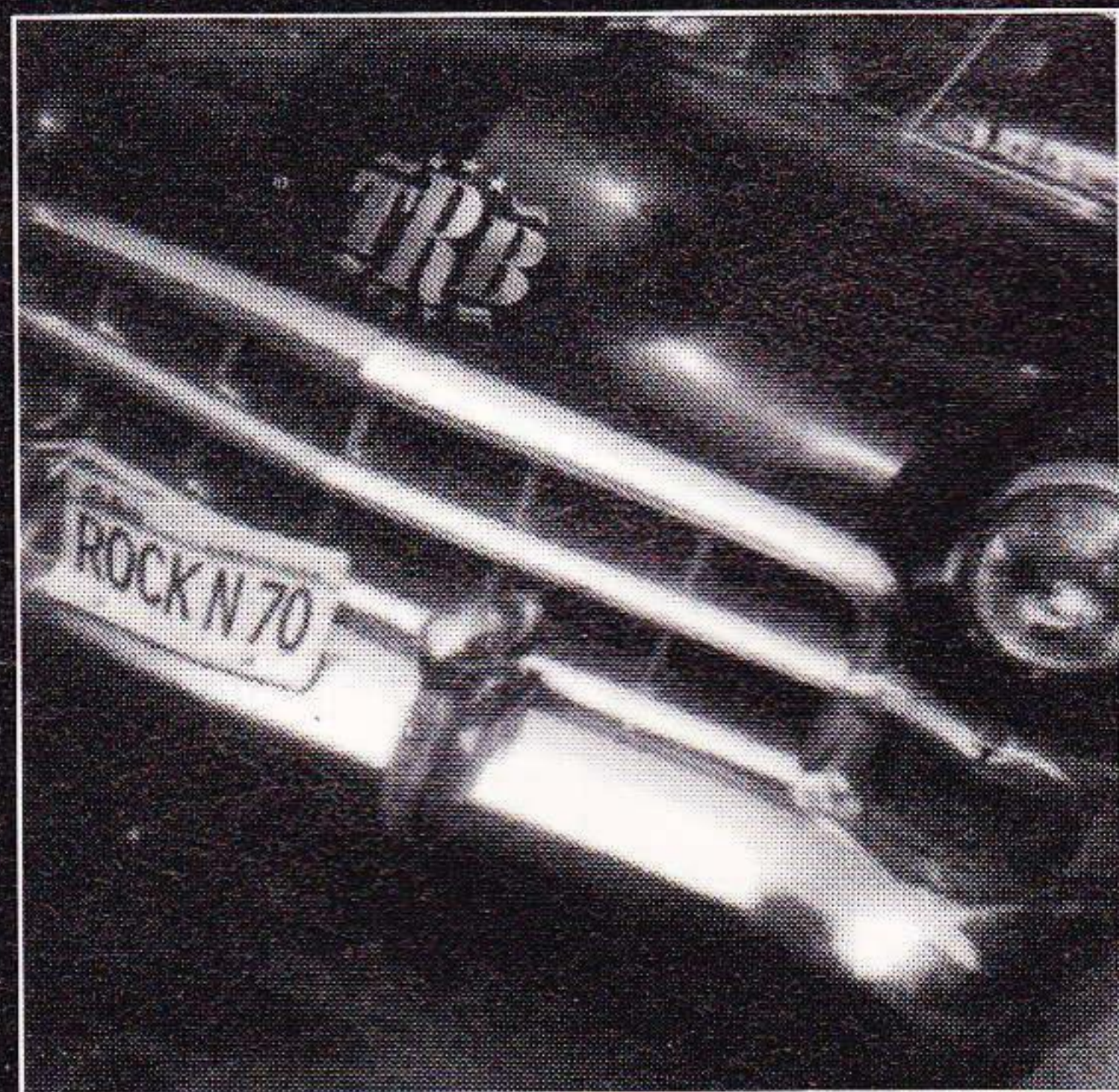
#1 Metal Radio



BRAINCHILD

Mindwarp

Industrial meets Metal



TRB

Toni Rossi Band

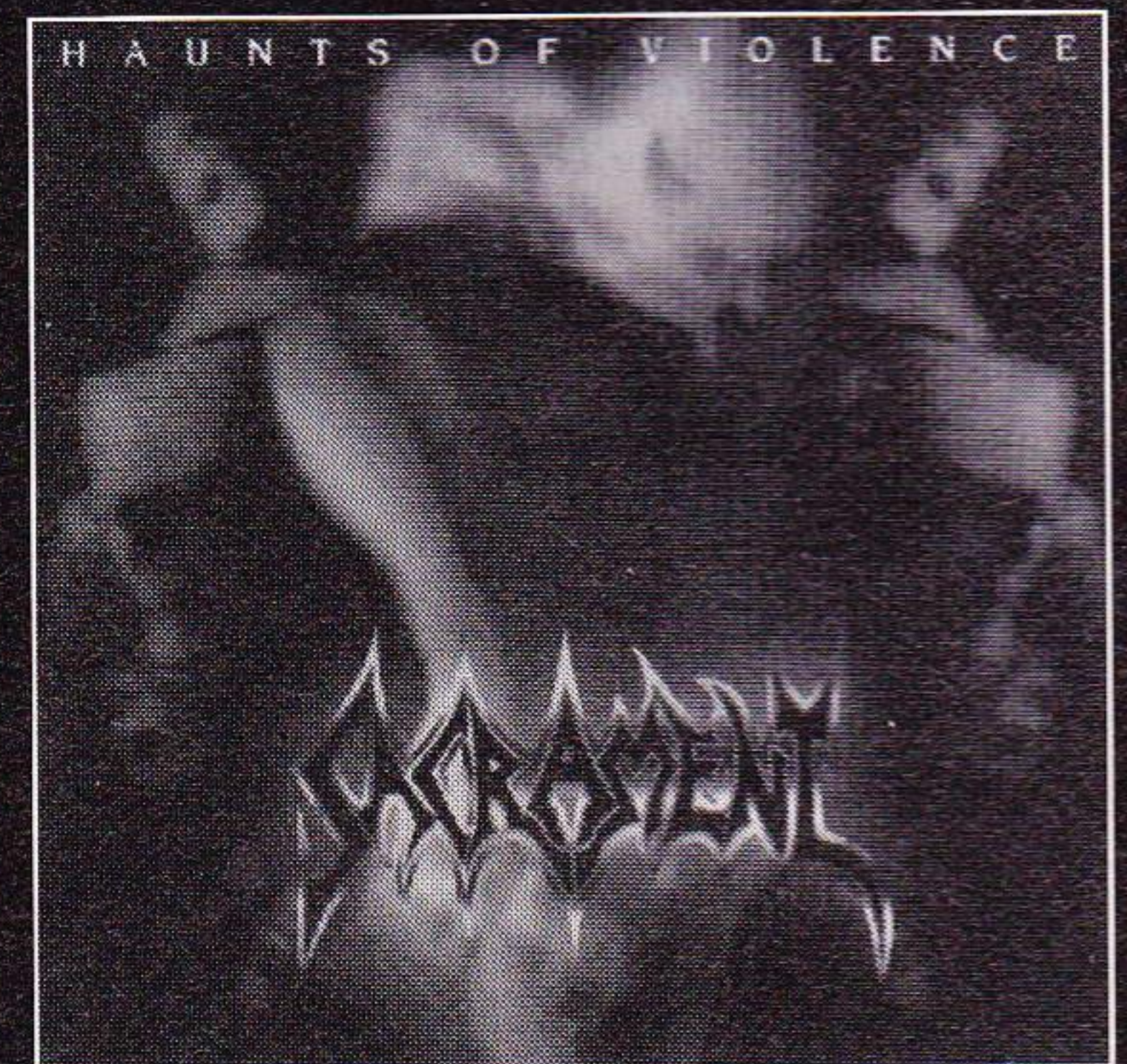
Deja vu... The 70's re-visit the 90's



CIRCLE OF DUST

Circle of Dust

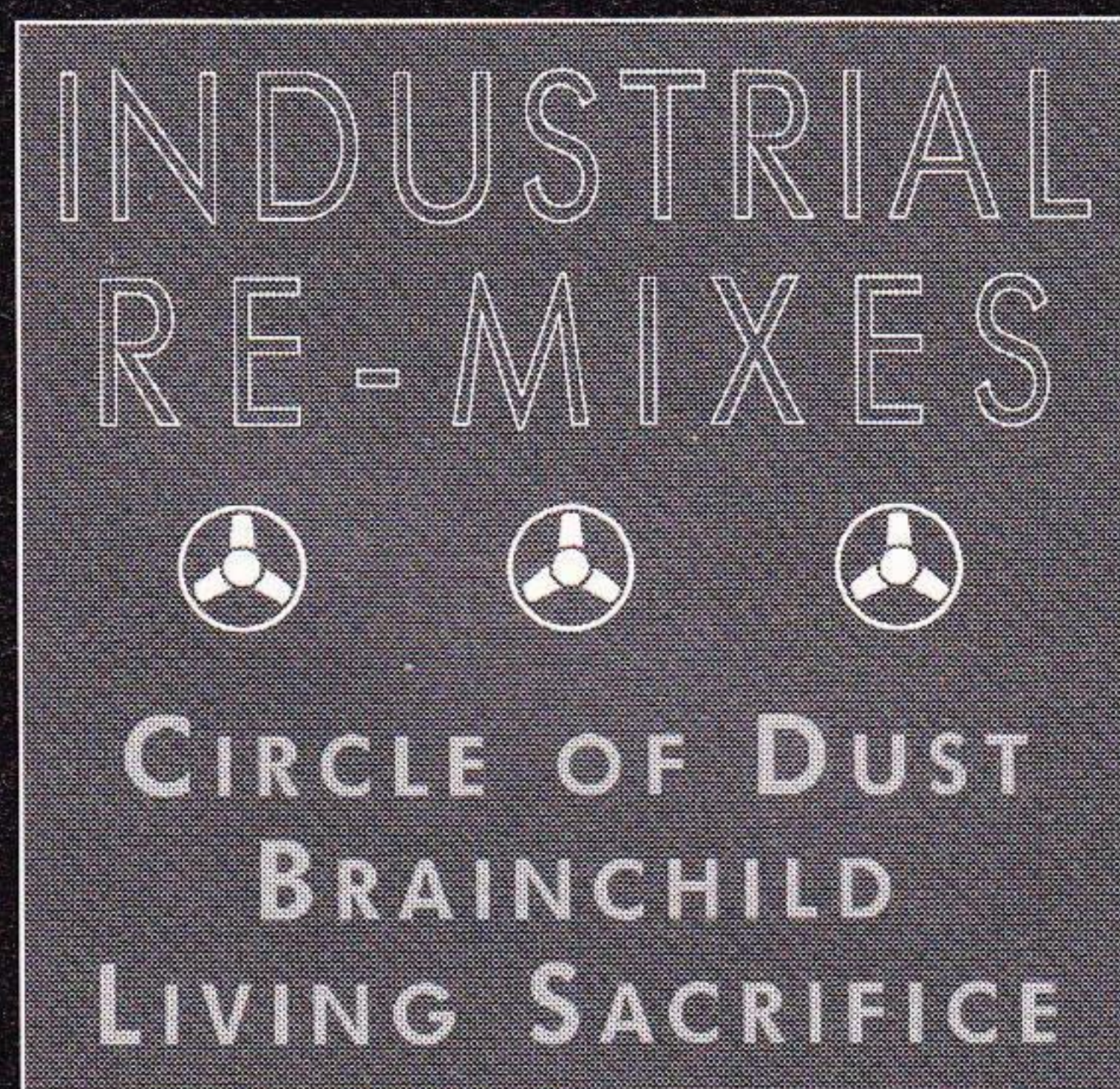
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SACRAMENT

Haunts of Violence

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METAL TRACKS



L-R: Eric Mendez, Ted Kirkpatrick, Gary Lenoire, Les Carlsen, Terry Taylor, Victor Macias, Mike MacLane (FMG) (Photo by Ricky Thompson)

Tourniquet brings us some earth-shattering news: vocalist **Guy Ritter** has left the band! "It was definitely a mutual parting," reports drummer **Ted Kirkpatrick**. "You have four people in the band who adamantly want to go the same musical direction and one person, which was Guy, that wanted to go in a different direction--probably not as heavy and maybe more commercial. Many people know that Guy was in Holy Danger a long time ago. Guy is very into old Styx and Cheap Trick and Journey. I love that stuff too, but I also love the music of Carcus and Beethoven. I think musically we reached a point where we had to go our separate ways.

"Gary has done quite a bit of the vocals on the last two albums. We've found through the mail that people really enjoy his vocals. We've always gone with whatever vocal was the best for that particular part. Of course, we don't plan on becoming a band that does nothing but all-out screaming. Melodic singing will definitely have a place in the band as well.

"We're in the process of looking for a vocalist, so if people want to send something to us, that would be great. Another really important thing about vocalists is stage presence and being able to deal with all levels of crowds. Now that we're also signed to Metal Blade, who are distributing the new album in March with much better distribution through Relativity. A frontman needs to be able to relate with a hostile or alien crowd, as well as a crowd of fans.

"A band is like a job in some ways.

It's friends and everything when you start a new job, but sometimes you feel that God is calling you somewhere else or it's not quite working out and there's somebody that's more right for the position and there's another band that's more right for the person that left. I think that's what you're dealing with. It has nothing to do with, 'Well, so & so is a jerk and he's out!' You can work at the same job for four years at a Christian bookstore or whatever, and then you're called to go somewhere else. God leads us where He wants to if our eyes are on Him. It's one thing if it's done under greed and conflict, but another if it's under musical differences. We did this with prayer and asking God for wisdom.

"Best wishes to Guy in the future. We have received letters that said, 'Thank you for staying together. You're one of the few bands that doesn't have a revolving door of members.' We have no intention of doing that, but we also have no intention of having a less-than-ideal situation continue any longer.

"We'd like to be doing shows by March. I'm sure God will give us a new singer if that's His will. We're doing a live EP this weekend. **Les Carlsen** is flying down to do the vocals. We're doing a cover of the Bloodgood song **Messiah**. We hope to re-record **Ark of Suffering** in the key of C-sharp, so that should be fun."

Troy Thompson of **Bride** sends us his travelogue from the band's Germany tour: "We arrived in Germany on December 1, 1992 and took in some scenery of castles down the Rhine on our four hour drive from Dusseldorf

to Karlsruhe. Here we played the first of two shows in a club called The Subway. About 200 fans showed up to watch our set. The highlight of this show was when Dale used the promoter, Marcus, to interpret the message of salvation for him at the end of the show.

"The second show was Christmas Rock Night held in Dusseldorf, Germany. After Rick Elias, The Choir and Guardian played, it was our turn to take the stage. The 1300 fans that had gathered for the show greeted us enthusiastically. We played most of our songs from 'SNAKES IN THE PLAYGROUND' and 'KINETIC FAITH.' We ended our 50-minute set with an encore of **Hell No**. At the end of the song, a few fans joined us on stage. That was all it took, and before we knew it there were dozens of fans on stage. After watching the video we took of the show, we found it to be one of the best performances we've had.

"Some things we thought were interesting about Germany are: the kids don't 'mosh' as much as they 'pogo' (jump straight up and down to the beat); most German kids speak enough English in order to talk to them; they are deeply rooted in their culture; kids were leaving valuables throughout the auditorium without feeling like their things would be stolen; and people don't drive as fast as you think they do on the Autobahn. All in all we had a wonderful time and are returning to Holland in March to play at Spring Rock."

Bride was featured on Good Morning America in January in a segment of the group's "METAL MISSION" video

"Everybody Knows My Name," during the show's feature on contemporary Christian music. The new D.O.C./Bride video for **God Gave Rock 'n' Roll 2 U** will be featured in an upcoming limited edition video/cassette package for retail. The special package will contain both the video and the new D.O.C. cassette "PULLIN' NO PUNCHES," and include interviews with the group filmed backstage at the video shoot.

Dale Thompson will be producing an album by new progressive metal band **Killed By Cain** for R.E.X. Records. **Believer** is currently working on their third release, entitled "DIMENSIONS." The subject matter will be dealing with apologetics and combating such thoughts and "isms" as atheism, creationism and evolutionism. Because of **Believer's** heavy involvement in the general market they have also decided to do a song restating their position. It's called "No Apology." The lyrics say: "No more will I regress backward/ From that which I believe/ I owe no man an explanation/ Expect no apology/ Logic defends age old prophecies/ Christ's life, death and resurrection/ Proof of absolute Deity/ Expect no apology." This album is being recorded digitally and will be the first album ever to be recorded on an Alesis A-DAT system with the new Alesis controller. They will also be using Turtle Beach Audio Software, which is not yet available to the public. Look for **Believer** to grace the cover of the next **Heaven's Metal**.

Tony Palacios of **Guardian**, on tour with Michael W. Smith, is making a good impact on crowds. On a recent show, everyone left the stage while Michael did a soft piano ballad. Well, Tony went downstairs backstage and was wailing away--and the soundman forgot to switch him off out of the monitors, so Michael and most of the audience got an earful of Tony's impromptu and unplanned-for-public-consumption solo.

The Crucified/Mortal tour came through Central Texas recently--and it was intense. **Mortal** played the best I've ever heard 'em. These guys are into thrashin' slammin' tunes. **Mortal** isn't a dance band, boys and girls. They're intense to the max! **Crucified** members **Jeff Belew** and **Jim Chaffin** joined **Mortal**, playing guitar and bass, respectively, during a few tunes. Brainstorm thrash rapper **XL** also occasionally backed **Mortal** on guitar. **Applehead** (consisting this night of **Jim Chaffin** on drums, **XL** on guitar, **Jeff Belew** on bass, and **Greg Minier** on guitar) started off things after **Mortal's** set with **Six Feet Under**. **XL** did two songs off his debut album and then **The Crucified** came on and blew through their hits as well as some tunes to be recorded on their next album.

Betrayal set up a stage on the Rose Parade route in Pasadena on New Year's Eve. 400 to 500 people showed up in a Carl's Jr. parking lot. A few fits of violence broke out,

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and several people responded to Christ. The band is starting up its newsletter, called **Black and White**. They're working on pre-production on their next album. They've got 12 songs now. They're heavy, fast and progressive. One of the songs will be a sequel to **Escaping the Altar**, called **Forest of Horrors**.

There's a slew of new albums coming out through Frontline in the next few months, including new discs by: **Mortification** (in May), **Die Happy** (May), **Mad At The World** (July), **Angelica** (July), a full-length album by **Deliverance**, and live EP's by **Tourniquet** (including covers of the **Bloodgood** classic "Messiah") and **Mortal** (who are doing covers of "One Tree Hill" by U2 and "Thy

Word" by Amy Grant). **Die Happy** will also go in to do a live EP not long after its full-length "VOLUME TWO" is released. One bit of **Die Happy** trivia for ya: **Mark Danziezen** of **Little Caesar** played drums on the track **Cole's Atomic Funk Thang**.

Confirmed acts for **Cornerstone '93** include: **Bride** (on the main stage), **The Crucified** (main stage), **Believer** (who is performing on the main stage with an orchestra again and will be recording a live album as well), **Mortal**, **L.S.U.**, **Tourniquet** and **P.I.D.** The festival is taking a different approach to the late-night performances. Instead of having several tents/stages to choose from for the evening encores (like having to choose between

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Readers Poll
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Bride

#1 Favorite Album

Snakes In The Playground

#1 Favorite Song

"Psychedelic Super Jesus"

#1 Favorite Singer

Dale Thompson

Syndicate Magazine

"Critics Pick 1992"

#1 Best Metal Album

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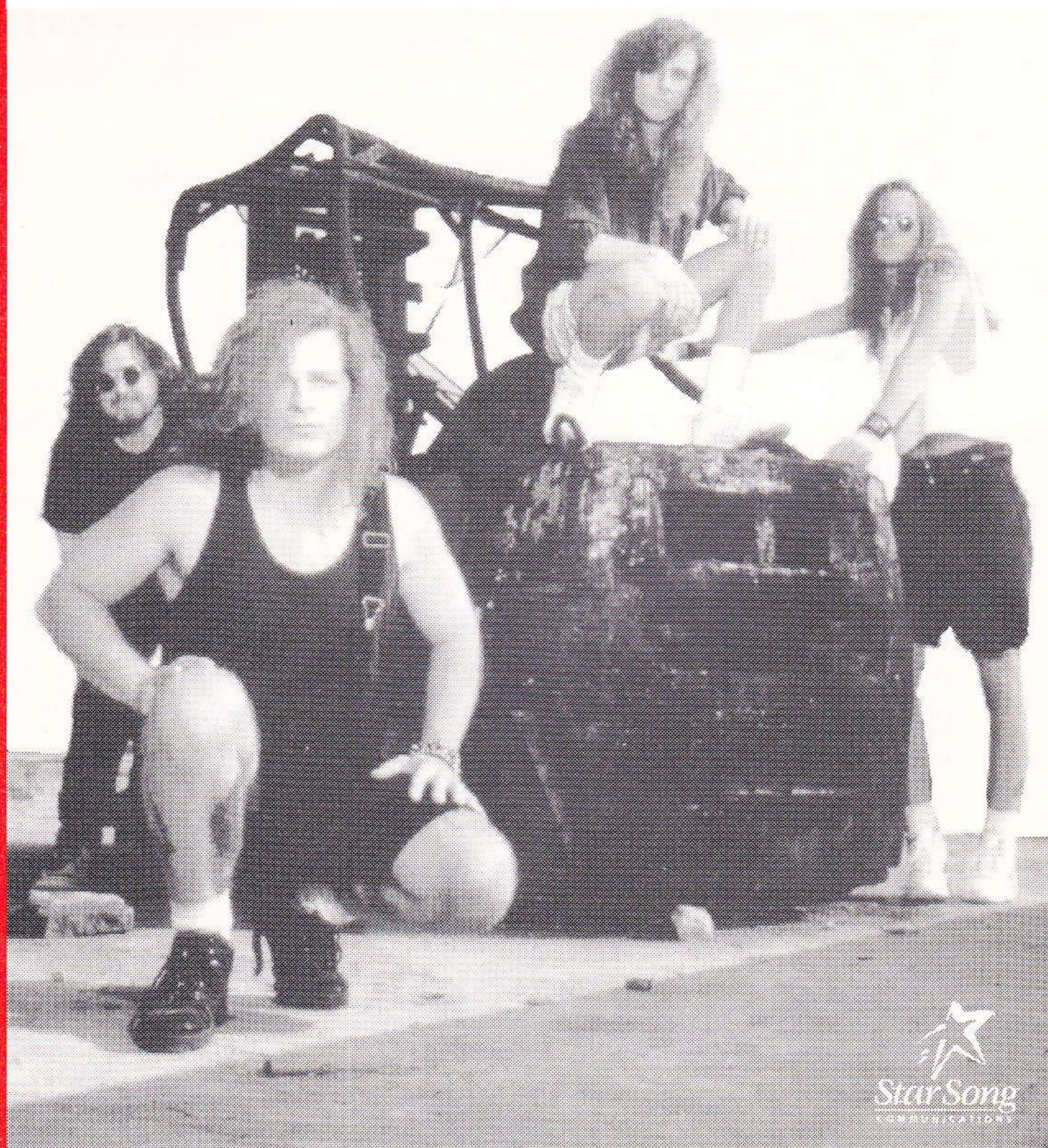
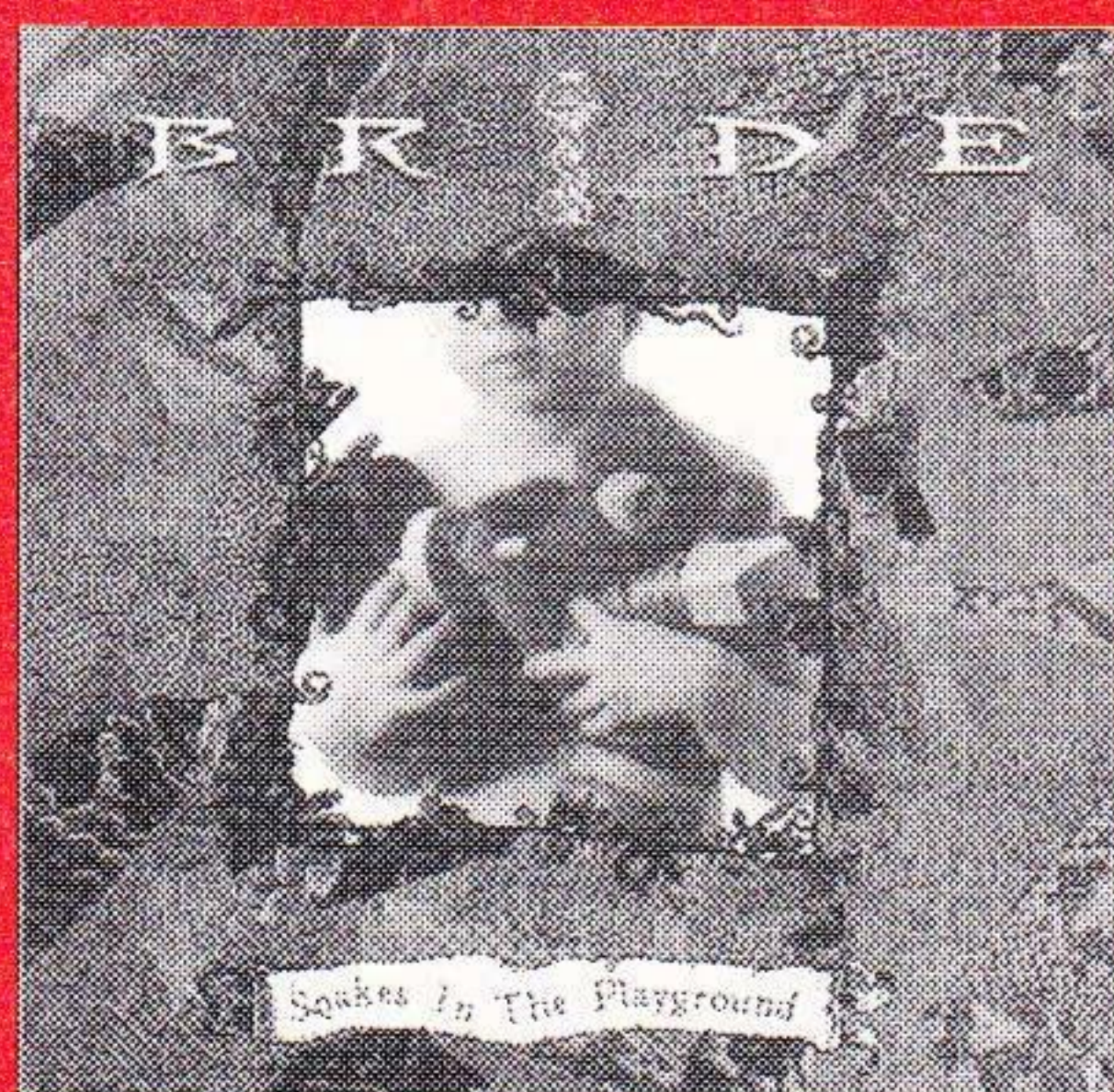
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Ken Tamplin posing in front of the billboard with his mug on it. (Photo by Nigel Street)

The Crucified and One Bad Pig), the mainstage will feature its usual three or four big name acts, as well as one band's late night "evening encores."

CCM Magazine is once again sponsoring the New Band Showcase, which is open to bands of all musical genres--reggae, rock, rap, industrial, chamber music, metal, you name it. There will be no categories. 12 bands will be selected to perform. Contestants should send the following: 3-song demo with best song first; lyric sheet to the three songs; photo of the band; bio of the bands; 2 performance references and at least one pastoral reference; \$5 entry fee. Materials should be mailed to: New Band Showcase, 939 W. Wilson Ave, Chicago IL 60640. Deadline for submission is March 31st. Only the 12 finalists will be notified at the end of April.

Magdallan's epic album "BIG BANG" debuted at number 22 on Japan's top 40 rock album chart, featured in the December edition of the nation's top rock magazine, *Burnn!* The album was released in Japan on October 21st by MJM Entertainment Group, Inc. and its distribution partner Apollon Records. "Of our 15 releases in Japan, Magdallan is the top seller," says MJM president Mark Joseph, "and we're excited about the enthusiastic response from Japanese fans." **Ken Tamplin** humbly comments: "In an age when it seems like rock 'n' roll is dead, it gives me great pleasure to know that the Japanese, like their technologies, are one step ahead of the game." Tamplin recently continued his thrust into the Japanese market by producing and performing a Shakey's theme song, which is currently being played at Shakey's pizza parlors throughout Japan. In

addition to Magdallan, MJM also handles the Japanese distribution of Angelica, Sacred Warrior, Jet Circus, Holy Soldier and Whitecross.

Expect a new Tamplin record soon. "I convinced myself that I wasn't going to let what happened with the Magdallan record happen again," says Ken, "so I set out to literally fund and pursue my own album. I've funded it partly from doing commercial soundtracks. I believe so much in the songs themselves and the lyrics that I've put my own money where my mouth is. I've put \$50,000 into it. I think it will end up costing about 60, which I feel is more than a Gospel label could afford. It's really strong. It's somewhere between a melodic AC/DC with hints of Queen and Led Zeppelin and old Aerosmith and Van Halen with touches of old Deep Purple and Rainbow--all done in the settings of the 90's. I'm real excited about it. I've got some international interest, some major labels here in the US and I'm probably going to license it to a Gospel label to.

"It's a band. So far it's Dave Raven on drums. Scott Van Zen, who's on a couple of my solo albums, is on lead guitar. I played all the rhythm, and all the bass, yet we do have a bassist."

Ken Tamplin appears on two billboards advertising the Orange County Register. Southern California HM readers can see the billboards at Kramer St. on the 91 Frwy in Placentia and at Industrial Way on the 55 Frwy in Costa Mesa.

Inner Seeds 1993, the South's only alternative Christian music festival is three years old this July, and IS-Fest '93 is looking for unsigned and independent artists to perform in Atlanta. Those interested should

contact Mission Music Ministries, Attn: New Artist Coordinator, PO Box 724973, Atlanta, GA 31139, for information and an application. New artists selections will begin in March. Highlights from last year's Inner Seeds include: Bride, Guardian, The Choir, Pat Terry, The Throes, Adam Again and many others.

Guitar hero **Lanny Cordola** is working on a new Magdallan album, with a new vocalist by the name of **Phil Bardowell**. Those wanting to get a taste of his vocal sound, they can hear him on "The Real Thing," the latest rock single from "OF RIFFS AND SYMPHONIES" by Lanny on Essential Records.

R.E.X. is releasing industrial remixes of **Circle of Dust**, **Brainchild** and **Living Sacrifice**, which will also feature bonus tracks of each. **Scott Albert** of Circle of Dust and **Brainchild** will be doing the remixes. **The Brave** is touring.

Greg Shultz, former keyboardist for **Joshua** who has released one solo album of contemplative instrumental keyboard music, has a new name for his independent record company and a new album slated for April release titled "BRANCHES OF PALM TREES." For info, write: Hungry Cow Records, PO Box 1623, Yucaipa, CA 92399.

St. Warren is a hot new band from South Florida made up of four Christian musicians who have spent years playing in ministry bands, who now want to make a go of it in the mainstream music market without the usual "bold for Jesus" lyrical direction. They've got a full-length album out on cassette and CD. For ordering info, write: PO Box 2966, Brandon, FL 33509-2966.

Sacred Warrior, or what's left of it,

would love to hear from its fans. Anyone wishing to encourage them, etc. may write to: 427 Duane St, Glen Ellen IL 60137.

Novella is booking acoustic concerts, represented by JP Artist Agency.

Rob Rock is flying out to L.A. to audition players for the band he and **Chris Impelleteri** are putting together to promote their album project "GRIN AND BEAR IT," which, as reported in HM #39, has been picked up by JVC/Victor in Japan. They plan on touring Japan in April.

Larry Norman is alive and well. In a recent Phydeaux newsletter, he said, "I don't know if I'll ever be able to tour again, but I might do a concert here and there. I'm just enjoying my life, going to church with my friends, hanging out with Mike (his son), and recording songs with Charly (his brother). I feel like I'm on a new road and I feel so close to Heaven." Phydeaux is releasing two videos of Larry performing. "APOCRYPHAL OF WRY" is an intimate look at a private concert he put on for friends and "THE NIGHT BEFORE THE FALL" captures the performance of Larry and Charly with Q-Stone in the Soviet Union the night they were chemically poisoned and the army physically ejected them from the country. Celebrating 20 years since his infamous "ONLY VISITING THIS PLANET," the company is re-releasing this classic album on CD. For info regarding these releases, write: Phydeaux, 4398 Lucy Way, Soquel, CA 95073.

The Dutch Christian metal scene is quite happenin' these days. There are currently 11 bands from Holland spreading the mega decibel Good News: **Decision-D**, **Sculpture**, **Fortress**, **Lucifer's Nightmare**, **Beneficial**, **Redeemer**, **Tefilla**, **Repentance**, **Porridge**, **Kyrie** and **Ancepscura**. The members of Repentance are between the ages of 12 and 15. Dutch reporter Hans van Vuuren boasts that the band is young, talented, enthusiastic and extremely willing to evangelize. Holland thrashers Tefilla recently played at a secular festival with bands like Squadron and Funny Farm. The guys from Sculpture have started a magazine called "Metal Mission," which exists to build up the Christian musicians in Holland.

Intense Records have signed **Saviour Machine**. A recent **Deliverance** show in Brazil was cancelled before it ever got off the ground, because a promoter ran off with the other promoter's money. **The Crucified** heads into the studio in late February to record its new album, which is slated for a June release. **Idle Cure** is recording a new album on an independent label from the midwest. Look for the project this summer. **Kreyson** has finished a new album called "CRUSSADERS," which comes in two versions: Czech and English. Those wondering what **Angelica** vocalist Drew Baca has been up to might be surprised to find out he's been

recording his own R&B style music and shopping his demo around. **Hot Pink Turtle** will have its debut album out on R.E.X. this Spring. R.E.X. announces that the bankruptcy of Spectra will no affect the label's distribution. They have signed a deal for distribution with Diadem.

Love Life, who recorded "GOODBYE LADY JANE" on Blonde Vinyl Records, is currently using the name **Fear Not** and have been signed to Pakaderm. They went into the studio in mid-January to begin drum tracks. Look for an album in April. After the Blonde Vinyl release, Love Life considered going secular (though in no way compromising their Christian walks). During this transition original guitarist Darin Eby left the band. Soon after Chris Howell (**Showdown**) became his replacement. As the group sought more mainstream accessibility, **Larry Worley** took off his guitar to take "frontman" position. This gave way to the addition of **Michael Cutting (Holy Soldier)** on second guitar. At this time they changed their name to Fear No Evil and sought the assistance of PMS Management (who placed the interesting ad in a recent Heaven's Metal). After a few shows, Michael decided not to continue with the band and Larry put his guitar back on (still singing), and that's when the name Fear Not was chosen. Fear Not wants its fans to know that they are 100% committed to being full-time music ministers. They are not attempting to "go secular." They have also parted professionally with PMS Management. As of now, Fear Not has two very strong verbal offers from Christian record companies (the Blonde Vinyl contract is completed). Details are being ironed out, but expect a release this year (possibly under a new name). Their music is hard rock and is reported to be much stronger than the first album. Fear Not can be reached at 714-985-2528. They want to tour in '93, so requested are accepted. Plus, fans please write to: PO Box 60653, Pasadena CA 91116-6653.

Jesus Freaks are about to break into the scene with their debut EP, "SOCIALY UNACCEPTABLE," containing 32 minutes of guitar-packed bliss and covers topics such as avoiding fake Christianity, turning away from drugs and the need to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. To coincide with this release, Jesus Freaks will be touring extensively during January through May.

Mortification has finished its new album "POST MOMENTARY AFFLICTION." The band spent 35 days in production. "It sounds incredibly rich," says vocalist/bassist **Steve Rowe**. "We are real pleased with the outcome. We have now found our own distinctive sound and style. The 'GRIND PLANETS' videos are available from us for \$30 (US). Please send cash, a bank cheque, money order or international draft. No personal checks please. All who purchase a

Grind Planets video before December 1st of 1993 will go into a drawing to win the chalice from the **Raise the Chalice** video clip. The chalice is hand-blown Venetian glass, hand painted and has a 24 ct. gold base, stem and trimming. It is valuable and was purchased specially for the video. The winner will be sent the chalice and be listed in the Metal Tracks section early next year. For the US market, mail-order will be the only avenue to purchase it, since Frontline is not going to release it."

Mortification's address is: PO Box 339, Mentone, Vic., 3194 Australia. Christian Metal Revue has moved. Their new address is: PO Box 230, Teachey NC 28464.

Sardonyx is upping their voltage by adding two new members to their current lineup. The band will be filling out its sonic spectrum by adding guitarist Kevin Bradley and special effects man Jeff King. Jeff authored the prose in the epic single "Corridor to Light" from "MAJESTIC SERENITY" and was acting as the guitar tech for Rod Feltman. Kevin appeared on the Thresher release "TOTALLY POSSESSED." Look for more grandiose concept metal from Sardonyx in the future.

REZ comes home from Europe in February and goes directly into the studio to work on their next album project, slated for a Sept. 1st release. Besides this good stuff, the REZ guys (and gal) are busy teaching Bible classes at the JPUSA community as well as local churches, schools and colleges. Wendi's "Radical Relationships" seminar on sexuality is in high demand. Also, did you know that Stu Heiss is a computer genius? He keeps all the computers at JPUSA happy.

Julio Rey of **The Lead** fame has two side-project bands that he is in: **Frank's Enemy** and **Global Warming**. Interested parties can write: Not Silent, PO Box 523899, Miami FL 33152-3899.

Precious Death has entered the studio to record a new full-length album that the band has self-financed.

In the bizarre news department: **The Terminal Generation's** tape, which featured semi-nude women painted on it (as mentioned in HM #38), was a limited edition J-Card cover. "We had a computer print up our tape covers with a bunch of miscellaneous pictures," explains band member Frog Svengali. "We had no control over it. We were just as surprised as you were. Some of our nifty covers even had the great late homosexual nazi Adolf Hitler's speech on them. On behalf of World Hate Media and The Terminal Generation, I would like to apologize for the computer's mistake. (Here's where it gets really bizarre) In fact, we would like everyone to know that Hugo Mustafu, The Human Mole, Guber Beasley and I, Frog Eyes, condone/participate in the destroying of pornography stands and burning the contents. We encourage your readers to do the same.

Christians--bow down to the emperor no longer." (For the first time ever, HM would like to say: We're not endorsing this statement, so use your own judgement on this one!)

Weeping Prophet will be going into the studio to record another 4-song demo. **Ash Black** is a new band described as being similar to The Crucified meets Megadeth with a hint of Testament. For info, write: PO Box 18597, Tucson AZ 85731-8597. This June (19-23) Star Song is holding one of three Intensive Vocal Training Schools in Nashville. For more info, write: 2325 Crestmoor, Nashville TN 37215.

There is going to be another International Festival of the Arts, the first of which was held early last year in St. Petersburg, Russia. This one will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria on May 3 through 8. This second festival, with its emphasis on peace and reconciliation, has the potential to impact the whole Balkan region in a significant way. For info, write: PO Box 1150, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada N1R-6C9.

There's a new magazine out of England called International Christian Biker, which, of course, covers all the elements related to big bikes. For info, write: PO Box 1554, Bath, Avon, BA1 37J England; or PO Box 8771, Moreno Valley CA 92552, USA. A group of Canadian rockers are forming an association to help Christian musicians in Quebec. For info, write: Axess, Jenmari Payant, 02 Corbeil, St Andre Avellin, Quebec, Canada, J0V-1W0.

Tera is recording an EP in May with David Zaffiro producing. Look for it right before Cornerstone (the mother of all festivals!). Those who really like really cool progressive instrumental music with touches of jazz will be keen to check out **Fish Drum**. Tapes available for \$10 cash or by trading US tapes from: Vince Millett, 10 Parker Rd, Croydon, Surrey, CRO-1DU, Great Britain.

A.A. Radio is a morning talk show with straight-forward values and good, clean fun and Christian metal tunes. For info, write: PO Box 1625, Glen Burnie MD 21060-1625.

There is a new band from Clearwater, Florida currently called **Prophecy** (look for a name change soon, due to the fact that there's another Prophecy from Southern Cal.). It's made up of the following players: **J.D. Miller** (ex-Arsenal) on lead guitar; **Todd Newland** (ex Todd Grubb's Universe) on drums; **Michael Poland** (ex-Zero/Empire) on vocals; **Dave Tette** (ex-Agent Steele & Nova Rex) on bass; and **Julio Guash** (ex-Majesty) on guitar. The band has recorded their first demo and is currently working with Nancy Reece Promotions in Nashville. The band will be embarking on a seven-city tour in July. Interested promoters contact Jagged Edge Tours at (210) 599-7581.

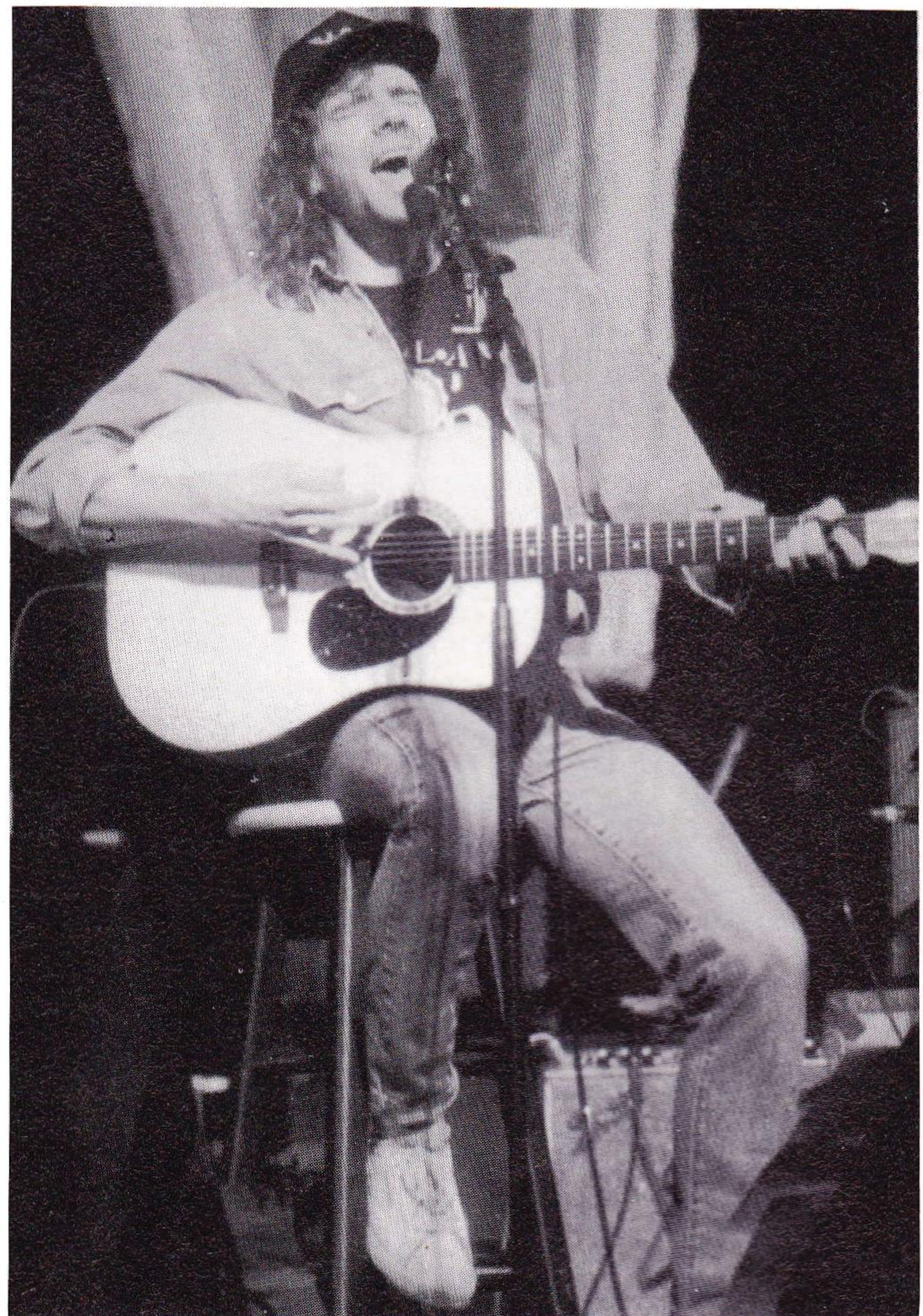
L.O.U.D. is working on releasing

two albums real soon. One will be called "L.O.U.D. 2 IT'S TRUE" and the other will be a worship album called "L.O.U.D. LIVE." The band is currently looking for a new drummer. Their pastor told 'em to take three months off, which is when their old drummer left. Give credit to God for good timing, eh? **L.O.U.D.** is planning some touring with **Bride** and playing some summer fests. The self-distributed CD's and tapes will be made available individually or in specially-priced packages together. For info, write: 333 Tanbark, Hamilton OH 45011.

Modest Attraction

has put out a new cassette with all the songs from previous demos. For ordering info, write: Christian Liljegren, Lundgatan 223, S-566 33 Habo, Sweden. **Final Judgement** has a new tape out, called "DRASTIC DOSE OF REALITY." For info, write: 3530 Ashford Dunwoody Rd, Suite 119, Atlanta GA 30319. The **Royal Anguish** and **The Risen** split LP has been reduced to a split 7-inch 45 rpm. **A.R.T.** has completed a deal with European distributor Master Records. Master has committed to distribute the entire **A.R.T.** catalog. **A.R.T.** has plans for two more 7" releases. **Precious Death** will record their own 7-inch. **Sculpture** and **Deracination** will be doing a split recording.

Volume One of the "UP FROM THE UNDERGROUND" series by **A.R.T.** Records will include: "Oppression" by **Drop Dead**; "Sayings of the Wise" by **Consecrator**; "Modern Williamsburg" by **Cindy Tells Me**; "I Am The Way" by **Big Love**; "Self Treachery" by **Brother Grimm**; "Through the Eyes of Fire" by **Final Prophecy**; "The Depth of my Soul" by **Precious Death**; "Mortal Decay" by **The Risen**; "Habitual Sacrifice" by **Final Judgement**; "Free My Skin" by **The Clergy**; "Lost Deep Within My Mind" by **Nonpoint Factor**; and "Shocking the Priest" by **Royal Anguish**. The tunes by **Final Prophecy**, **Final Judgement**, **The Clergy** and **Royal Anguish** are all remixes available nowhere else. **Final Prophecy** will finally begin recording their debut album early this year. The title remains "PORTRAIT OF A DECAYING WORLD." A string of 7" EP's are going to be released early this year, which will be limited editions. The bands to be included are: **Godhead**, **Final Judgement**, **Drop Dead**, **Final Prophecy** and **Consecrator**.



Dan Huff (Photo by Kirk Crippens)

Dan Huff of **Giant** did a guitar solo at the **Mark Heard** Memorial Concert benefit, which had a SRO crowd of 1,450. Most of the artists performed a song of their own and then a cover of a Heard tune--all of which were recorded for an up-coming benefit album and video. Over \$18,000 was raised to be applied towards outstanding hospital bills left to the family after Heard's lengthy illness and passing this summer. Those interested in contributing to the family fund may do so by writing: The Heard Family Fund, c/o New Sound, PO Box 197, Merrimac MA 08160.

There's a place in Dallas that's having good concerts every single weekend, most of them being hard rock metal bands. Check out who they're having in the next couple of months: **The Brave** (on March 5th), **Holy Soldier** (on April 17th), **Dig Hay Zoose** (on April 24th), **Seraiah** (on May 15th) and **Betrayal** (on May 28th). For information, call (817) 267-5000.

Heaven's Metal now has a customer service line to help you with any problems you may have with your subscription. It's not a talk line or a "metal news info" resource (that's what the Heaven's Metal Hotline is for). Another place that features regular HM news is a five-minute spot on the **Rock Alive** syndicated radio show. **HM**

ALBUM REVIEWS

DIE HAPPY "VOLUME II"

Intense

Beginning with thrash metal as Vengeance Rising, moving to heavy metal with a self-titled debut, Die Happy has finally found its best sound on VOLUME II as a classic rock band. With influences ranging from Sabbath to Zeppelin, VOLUME II marks the first worthwhile album Die Happy has recorded. The album boasts emotion, melody, and style, which the previous release lacked.

The emotional element of the album partially emerges from the content of many of the songs. For example, **Tear Gallery** stems from Doug Theimes's own struggles of watching his brother die of cancer. Further adding to the emotion of the songs are the passionate vocals of former Jaguar vocalist Robin Kyle. On the previous album, Robin was merely hired to lay down the vocals. Now, after becoming a permanent member of Die Happy, Robin participated in the songwriting, providing him with lyrics tailored to his particular style of vocals and lyrics which come more from his heart than from a sheet of paper he sees only days before recording.

The great sense of melody found on this new album makes many of the songs extremely catchy and distinct. Songs such as **Justified** and **Eden** have choruses that become locked within the listener's mind even after the song has ended. However, the album is not the kind of melody-driven album which grabs the listener quick and strong but becomes far less appealing soon afterwards. VOLUME II is the kind of album which requires some time to grow into, but less time to grow out of.

VOLUME II also features the addition of Die Happy's new bassist Greg Chaisson, formerly of the mainstream group Badlands, which features Ozzy's former guitarist Jake E. Lee. Greg's experience working with professional bands has not doubt significantly impacted the success of Die Happy's new sound. The song **Cole's Atomic Funk Thang** was written by Greg entirely on the bass guitar. The name for the song comes from Greg's son Cole, whom Greg once saw dancing to the song while Greg was playing it. Considering their previous album had two number one songs on the Pure Rock Charts, VOLUME II, and extremely superior release, should do far better. If you live in a place that has Christian metal radio, be prepared to hear a great deal of Die Happy.

--David Jenison

JESUS FREAKS "SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE"

Narrowpath

I should've known that the debut

album (EP) by Jesus Freaks would be a good product. I mean, the only other really metal band that Narrowpath ever signed was an unknown band called The Crucified.

The Jesus Freaks, though young, have put out a very credible thrash record. Narrowpath has done what is sure to become a trend in our current economy: short EP releases of new bands that give the public a good taste of a band without a big recording budget.

Sonically, these tunes sound good. The drums aren't monstrous, but they're adequate at backing up the rhythm section, which rounds out with pretty good guitar tones and solid bass.

The best thing about Jesus Freaks' music is their songwriting. They've developed some cool riffs and fitted them together tightly with attitude vocals. It's pretty easy to spot the Metallica influence in this trio's music--especially in Eric Peterson's vocals.

The guitar leads by Zach Martinez are fast, difficult and adequate, but not as outstanding as his tight rhythms. You could say they're expected, versus creative surprises. In **Die With Me**, he shows good concentration and speed as the band plays several measures in a row.

The hottest song, in my opinion, is **Hypocrite**, a tension-building tune that basically erupts in choruses of "Hypocrite!" It's got power. Eric sounds a lot like James Hetfield of Metallica, but it sounds good.

Jesus Freaks are a credible thrash band. If they get any decent distribution, I predict they'll be very popular. The biggest drawback to this album? It's too short!

--Doug Van Pelt

GUARDIAN "MIRACLE MILE"

Pakaderm

When David Bach told me a long time ago that the new Guardian album would not be a FIRE AND LOVE PART TWO, I was disappointed. "How could they improve on such a great sound and style? Well, these transplanted Californians (now Nashville residents) are takin' on the world with a little more class, a little more diversity and a little more volume.

Much cudos go to the forefathers of R&B on this one, cause this album has some skyscraper tall grooves and sounds that rock ya big time. In the old days of hard rock, it was a crime to mention R&B and horns (what?!? Horns?? No way! Way!), even though bands like Aerosmith were boogie-in' full tilt with this mixture of Gospel-tinged R&B with hard and heavy rock and roll.

MIRACLE MILE is a Texas-sized

blessing to the musical world, but it ain't without its let downs to the hard rock world. For instance, tunes like **The Captain and You And I** may be good, but they stretch a little far for this band. **The Captain** sounds like a Billy Squier-type ballad with big, breathing acoustic guitars and soft high notes sung by Jamie Rowe; and **You And I** sounds like Rick Springfield doing Beatles harmonies.

Those minor flaws out of the way, let me get on to the greatness here. Thematically, the album is full of character stories. You've got people like **Dr. Jones & The Kings Of Rhythm** (a traveling preacher), **Shoeshine Johnny** (a lowly humble man who serves others with a joy from the Lord), **Sister Wisdom** (the Lord's wisdom--as mentioned in Proverbs and seen by some scholars as a reference to Jesus) and **Mr. Do Wrong** (the devil himself).

I Found Love is one of those big sounding tunes built with plenty of loud, jangly acoustic guitars; kinda like what Tesla has used a lot. **Sweet Mystery** carries a similar vibe, but the band actually brings in a string section. **Do You Know** is another ballad that works well. It'll have the girls swaying and the bic lighters in the air in concert.

Let It Roll is a winner. **Mr. Do Wrong**, uncannily has a monster groove like Motley Crue's **Dr. Feelgood** and tons of killer leads by Tony Palacios. Karl Ney's drumming and David Bach's bass put this groove right in the hip pocket. **Curiosity Killed The Cat** is another big hit with a decidedly Van Halen flair. See if you can't hear this song and not sing along.

MIRACLE MILE is one of those great albums that "does its own thing," but does it so well that you can't knock it for being diverse. If diversity of styles is wrong, then Led Zeppelin's popularity was a fluke. They're serious musicians, yet they have fun. See if you can find their fun surprise on the album.

--DV

ROSE "HEALING"

Intense

This album is a low-end monster waiting to chew your head off. Fans of the screaming tube sound of early Black Sabbath will scream for joy when you feast your ears on this. The last Rose project left a lot to be desired, in my opinion. It was such a clone of Danzig and the tunes just didn't have a groove as big or bigger than the vocals.

This album is a full-on blitzkrieg assault that hard rockin' metalheads will drool over. Take a listen to the earth-shaking **Seeds of Sorrow**. This groove is right up the alley of the Sabbath-influenced band Trouble. There's



E.R.G.

Congratulates

Lanny Cordola on winning

Heavens Metal Guitar Hero

of the Year Award.

LANNY'S LATEST RELEASE 'OF RIFFS AND SYMPHONIES' IS AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE

even some Ozzy-fied reverb effects at the end of each chorus.

Hooked is an appropriately-titled tune! The hooks here grip you tighter than a dentist on a tooth. (Can you say future #1 radio single?) Randy Rose leaves his low, low register behind for the urgent lines that make up the chorus. He returns to his patented low end on each verse. A great song!

The title track is a thumper that stays in your mind hours after you listen to the album. The lyrics are well-written, empathetic sagas of truth. "Healing can be painful/I know how bad it hurts/Healing is the only way/To face another day." On **Demons** Randy does a little teaching about these foul spirits: "You let me in with your sin/And I will stay 'til you drive me away." Satan and his painful work is the subject of many of the works here, but the freeing power of Christ is triumphantly and clearly presented as well.

This is the heaviest album of the new year. It ain't no cute lil' piece of art either. It's big and bad.

--DV

DELIVERANCE "INTENSE LIVE SERIES VOL. I"

Intense

This new live EP series is a cool little idea by Frontline. It's definitely a collector's item for fans of bands like Deliverance. As long as this "specialty" attitude is taken into account when purchasing this album, there'll be no letdown. This is not intended to be a new Deliverance album, nor the "live in concert" album we may see from the band someday. What we have here is 28 minutes and 15 seconds worth of "live in the studio" material.

Some of the material here is real hot. The "I can't wait to hear this" award goes to the lead-off track--the cover of Stryper's **Surrender** (one of my all-time fav Stryper tunes). It's a real cool version showing Jimmy's vocal capabilities well.

After this song comes the sparse sound in the lacking rendition of **No Love**. The bass sounds fat, but the mid-range is kinda thin. It sounds as if the band was struggling through this take. **This Present Darkness** suffers from weak drum sounds. The first **Stay of Execution** excerpt we hear is real funny, in that it gives us privy to their mistake, but how many times do you wanna hear this? Too bad you can't erase it from your CD after the first pass. The complete version we hear next is good and solid; not weak like the previous two tunes. This new song benefits from the looseness of this setting. It shows just how heavy this song is. It kills.

The Call, one of the greatest speed metal tunes of all time, is featured here in all its heaviness, but the drums sound small in some spots and some of the dual guitar parts don't mesh properly. Mike Phillips' impromptu

guitar solo is fast 'n' cool. It's also a bit sloppy in places. **No Time** starts off with a classic arpeggio heavy metal solo. It's an aggressive version of this killer tune.

The new Intense live series: I want to own every volume that comes out, but I realize that, like this one, they aren't musical masterpieces on tape. They're special enough to be glad you can hear 'em, but contain some flaws that you wish you didn't have to.

--DV

XL AND DBD "SODOM AND AMERICA"

Brainstorm

The fusion of thrash metal and hard rap has been an inviting combination, which has generally failed to succeed in the Christian market--that is, until now. Rap artist XL and his thrash band Death Before Dishonor (DBD) have exploded on the metal scene with an album that is aggressive, hard and powerful, yet with a vocal style all its own. Though many people would call DBD the Christian Bodycount, the comparison is inaccurate, except that in both cases a former rap artist is doing metal. More accurate comparisons would be to Faith No More, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Slayer and Anthrax. However, the same comparisons are not applicable to every song, because each song is significantly different. For example, while one song might seem more rap oriented, many others do not sound like rap at all.

Those who cringe at the thought of rap music need not fear, because this record is thrash metal through and through. Additionally, **SODOM AND AMERICA** features special musical appearances by thrash artists like Mark Salomon, Greg Minier and Jimmy Brown. **SODOM AND AMERICA**, which has already been picked up by Epic for mainstream distribution, is a landmark in the progression of quality Christian metal.

--DJ

MORTAL "FATHOM"

Intense

Formula for reviewing new Mortal album: See band live the night before; hook up portable CD player to car cassette deck and run errands at full volume.

Alive And Awake gets things going on this album with tons of energy, intensity and aggression. This song is incredible. The riff just plain shreds. Ow! I almost rear-end another car during the next track, **Neplusultra**, which features The Crucified's Mark Salomon on lead vocals. As I pass the guy holding the "Veteran, Desperate, Need Work" sign, I wonder, "Should I give him my Mortal CD? It might save my life to get these dangerous tunes out of my earshot; but I don't want to endanger his life." Maybe the guy selling roses at the next light will trade a dozen for this CD. This

music is so driving and intense that it makes it hard to keep my faculties on the road.

Rift is a little easier to drive to. It's mellow most of the way through and doesn't put all of my nerves on edge with an onslaught of electric power. A few speedy breaks diversify the song, as I almost catch air over the railroad tracks. **Jil Sent Me** could send me to sleep behind the wheel if I was driving late at night (dangerous!).

A lot of this album slows down and explores non-intense realms, which could quickly bore a mosh-minded metalhead. Mortal is a good band to have in your collection, because they can funnel your senses in a swirl of blazing intensity in a tight fashion. These guys know how to cut a heavy groove at high speed. **FATHOM** is a scorching hot album during its moments, and somewhat cooler during the non-intense tunes, like **Bright Wings**, which sounds like LSU doing a hip hop tune.

One very cool puzzle in the album is track #7, which is not listed on the back of the album. It features only four seconds of silence before track 8 and then reappears at the end of the album. "Welcome to track seven," says a voice. It is a high speed thank you list and salute to friends and fellow rock bands.

You have to wade through portions of this album to find the highlights, but the highlights are great. Besides the fore-mentioned **Alive And Awake**, **Electrify** and the Mark Salomon assisted **Godspeed** are the brilliant standout cuts. For those who haven't yet charted into the waters of this new industrial/metal hybrid, Mortal would be a good place to start.

--DV

BRAINCHILD "MINDWARP"

R.E.X.

Scott Albert, the mastermind behind Circle of Dust, and Doug Mann, the producer for Believer and Living Sacrifice, have combined their talents to create a powerful industrial metal album under the name Brainchild. The album, **MINDWARP**, captures the spirit of the industrial movement by creating a sound saturated with the anger and bitter cynicism associated with this music genre. Furthermore, the album captures the futuristic sounding appeal of industrial music with its rapidly programmed drum beats, eerie sound effects, and bombardment of musical and spoken word samples creating the sense that the listener is experiencing a multi-media musical event.

However, despite the aggressive angry feel of the music, **MINDWARP** has deep and thought-provoking lyrics which view life, society and one's soul through a Christian perspective. Issues tackled on the album include the economy (**Telltale Crime**), the state of our country (**Descend**), and Satan's manner

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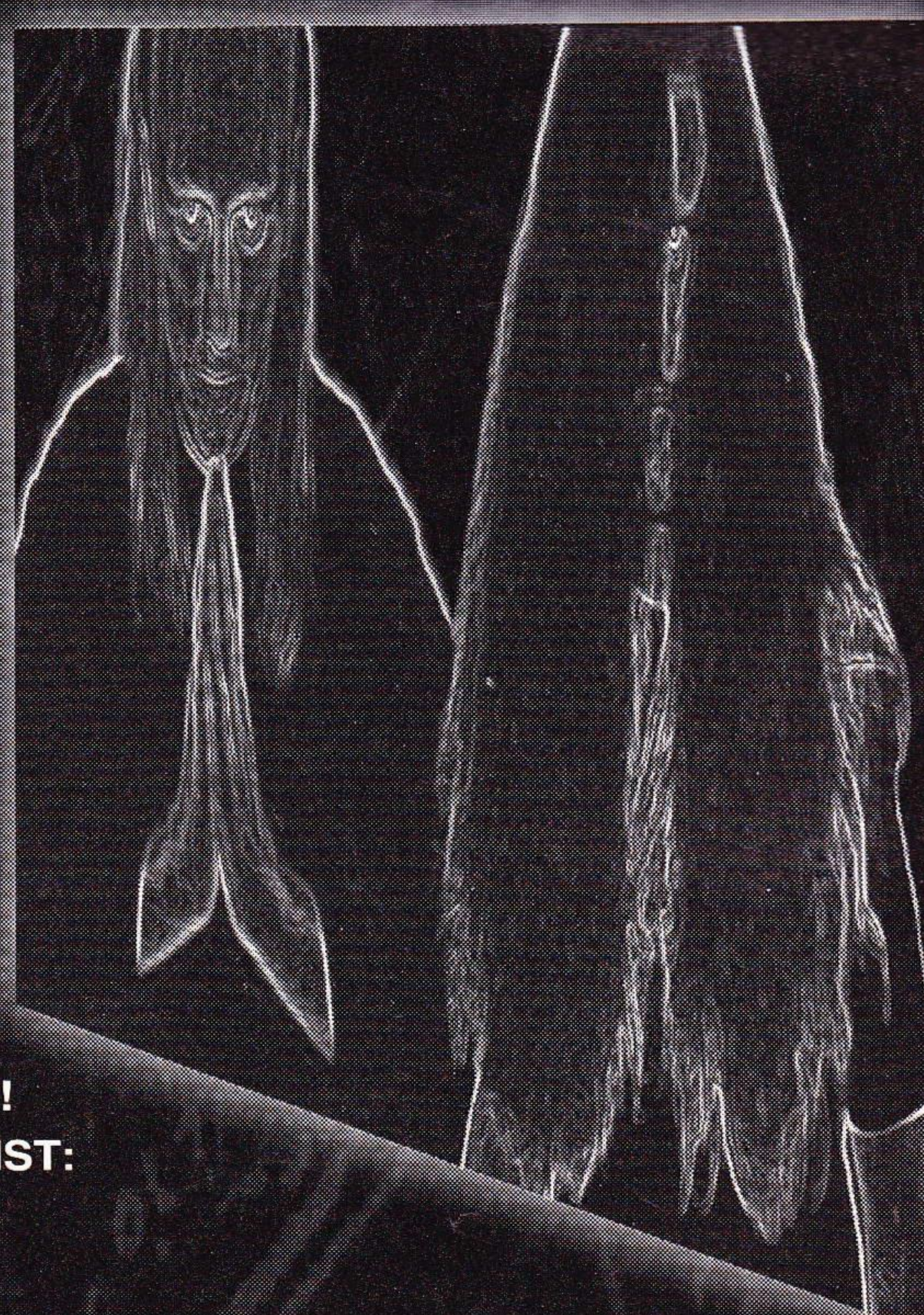
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of deception (**Cranial Tyrant**). Very intriguing is the song **Enshrined**, which is based on Foxes' Book of Martyrs, a classic accounting of the stories of numerous brave heroes of our faith who were willing to suffer and die on behalf of the Gospel. Brainchild musically ranks with the best of the industrial metal groups, yet provides the ear with some true "Ministry."

--DJ

GODSENT HUMANS "LIBERTY OR DEATH"

New Breed

Could you believe it? They have released their national project. This band has been playing Southern California for as long as I can remember. Awhile ago there was Sunday night concerts at Church of the New Order, which the bass player is pastor of (Biker James Rasmussen). Biker James has worked his band hard, playing with many other national and local acts. Godsent Humans were always a great time to mosh. They kept the energy up and moving the whole show.

If you like to drive with the music blasting, then this thrash release is possibly for you. I say not "totally for you," for some others like it because it jams and others don't care for all the writing of the songs. The outlook I have for **LIBERTY OR DEATH** is: play it loud and keep yourself moving. If you wish to stop for a rest, dig into the track **Fallen Sister**. The song deals with a person who is living in sin and how the main character is praying for her life. What was best with this track is that it can make you see the light that possibly is there for someone in your life whom you should be praying for.

The songs like **Liberty or Death** talk about how you can have a lot but if you lose, it's death. "Who'll save me from this body of death/Give me liberty or give me death...Christ is liberty, or you're dead!" Yes, choose Christ or nothing else will fill the void.

The lyrics to me are enjoyable once you dig in. Musically, they have grown a lot and have kept their energy. Overall, a good release with just enough to put you in the pit. Keep moshin.'

--P.G. Kidd

KAISER/MANSFIELD "SLOW BURN"

Grr

Down to the roots of just plain music that feeds from the feelings of the soul. Strip away all the power of the studio and special effects and sit down on the porch and hit record on your old recorder.

And who could do it better than those rock 'n' roll veterans Darrell Mansfield and Glenn Kaiser? Put on the old steel strings and the sweet harmonica whistle and get ready for a love that still remains within the blues--the roots of today's rock 'n' roll.

With blues comes what's on the heart, and what greater joy than that of telling someone, "Hey! Jesus is right here for you," on the opening track, **Jesus On The Mainline**. To hear Darrell's voice on the track **Slidin'**, when he sings the lyric "The place you need to anchor is right on your bended knees." He says it with such power as they both perform throughout the entire "BURN."

And speaking of burnin', the title seems odd until you understand the outlook on how the love that is wished is one that will just slowly keep burning: "Got eternity to love you.../Don't need no reputation/Earthly glory'll leave you cold/Live an' learn/It's like kissin' through a windowpane/Pretendin' it's true love/Live an' learn/A love that'll last eternally/That's what I want: a slow burn."

This project is a raw, raw, raw recording to just give the stripped down blues. With this production it gives and keeps giving the truth with feeling. If you wish to just experience the beginnings of rock 'n' roll and be blessed by the vocal, lyrical and musical rawness of Mansfield and Kaiser, then this one's definitely for you or for someone you wish to share the blues.

--PGK

TRB R.E.X.

Like many of you, I saw the TRB album advertised by R.E.X. and wondered "Who are these guys?" When I opened the disc and saw the name Tony Rossi, I knew that this was The Tony Rossi Band.

This guy was my favorite songwriter for one of my early fans in Christian rock--The Daniel Band. It's really good to see Tony's consistency in songwriting. He's still centrally focused on Jesus and still proclaiming the truth that "it all comes together on a cruel wooden cross."

What is disappointing, though, is the fact that Tony's stayed consistent musically. Can you say "stuck in a rut?" There's nothing wrong with rehashing old 70's riffs and sounds, but to do it right it's got to be larger than life. Compare the aggressiveness of the latest **Bride** with the low intensity level here. Most any of these songs could've appeared on the Daniel Band's **RUN FROM THE DARKNESS** album.

The best cut here is probably **Take It**, which features cool guitar and vocal textures and a mid-tempo rock feel. The vocal delivery in **The Answer** is hot. It's rapid and full of Megadeth-like attitude--until the chorus breaks it up with a ginger melody. There's a truly tender moment in the ballad **Love Survives**, yet it doesn't pack a punch.

This is a good, edifying album for those content with the Daniel Band sound of the mid-80's, but those who dig the cutting edge of most 90's music will find it unappealing.

--DV

Various

"ALL HAIL THE POWER"

Patriot Records

P.K. Mitchell knows the genre of heavy metal. A veteran of Neon Cross, P.K. starts off this hard rockin' worship album with a good dose of youthful humor. A lady croonin' away at **Amazing Grace** with a not-so-amazing falsetto is cut short with a needle scraping across a record and a resounding "NOT!!" Next Jim La Verde, Glen Mancaruso, P.K. and vocalist Robin Kyle go after it with a 90's version of the revered tune of old. Starting off the album with "Mr. Vocals" was a great idea, cuz the guy's pipes are awesome. He takes the mike on two other songs: **Leaning On The Everlasting Arms** and **God Be With You**. **Leaning...** sounds like a Die Happy tune, with a very big grunge tone.

Dana Hiatt makes a good appearance on **Trust and Obey**. **Take My Life** is a foot-stompin' rocker that could fit nicely in a Guardian album. Dale Oliver is a good vocalist. This is his best showing off his three tunes.

Remember Malachia? (RED SUNRISE album) Well, vocalist Ken Pike sounds as good as ever here. It's cool to hear the machine gun fire sampling added for that gritty war-like effect. Dana Croucier puts in a stellar performance in the title track, a fast-paced burner that she gallops along with proficiently. The guitars in this song do some serious wailing. Imagine Lita Ford doing power metal...

Overall, this project is very special. The musicianship is top notch. I was told that all these players are good friends with P.K. and were more than happy to play on any project he does. As you can see in the ad run in this issue, I've heard all the hard rock/metal praise albums released in the last few years, and this is the best.

--DV

THE MOSHKETEERS

This band gets the "best unsigned thrash band reviewed by me this issue" award. The tape cover is A+ Excellent. After honing their craft for around seven years, this band has finally created a killer sound. The first incarnation of this band, Rapture, was featured in a 1986 issue of Heaven's Metal (Issue #9). Since that time they've toured with Barren Cross, played at Cornerstone's New Talent Stage and changed their name, appropriately, to The Moshketeers.

The first thing you'll notice about this trio is their tightness. They're together. Whenever they make time changes, drummer Rob Hidalgo, bassist Michael Parkin and guitarist/vocalist Paul Scozzafava are all in sync.

The second thing you'll probably notice is the upfront, confront-you-about-the-Lord lyrics. Paul delivers these jewels Kurt

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Bachman style. Best tunes are the hard hitting **Locked in Chains**, **Posers Of Deceit**, **Epicurus**, **The Myth** and, for humor in truth, **Grease the Duck**. Shoot, all 11 songs on here kick butt.

You can't go wrong picking this tape up--unless, of course, you find Donny Osmond to be the hardest rock you'll listen to. For ordering info, write: 4001 Osuna Rd. NE, Albuquerque NM 87109.

--DV

TRUE REPENTANCE

I'm always on the lookout for unsigned thrash bands I can recommend to people. True Repentance is one such band. First off, this tape features decent sonics. Secondly, the band knows a good power speed metal riff when they find one. The only drawback on the overall sound here is the vocal level in the mix. The vocal delivery is in the discernable growl variety, but mixed too low here. The only drawback to the songwriting is the band tends to play the good power speed metal riffs to death.

The leads in **Destiny Awaits** add a little alternative wah-wah flair to the song between crunch-crunch-crunch. The best tune is the dynamic title cut, **Pray This Prayer**, which ends with a cool spoken prayer at the end asking for forgiveness.

If I was a label, I wouldn't sign these guys up yet, but their tape is listenable, so it stands above some of the junk out there. For ordering info, write: 2917 Laramie St, Irving TX 75062.

--DV

PURIN HEART

What's up guys? It's evening service here at Camp What? Yes, this tape is evening worship/entertainment material. This can be looked at two different ways. First, as most services go, the message is truly important; and this project is full of scripture-based lyrics, which read while listening to could lead to some great devotional time. In the lyric sheet they give scripture references to back up the truth in the lyric of the songs. Overall, they can fit well in a church camp setting or just youth fellowship service and very well could follow up with a message of commitment.

Yes, the song that could do a very good amount of work in people's lives is the track **Rachel**. More artists need to, if they feel comfortable, share personal testimonies; and this track deals with a personal outlook on abortion. Even if it hasn't happened to you or someone you know, the issue today is real and can change a lot of people's lives with the love of God shared in this lyric. If I had to pick a favorite lyric and song which had the most depth, **Rachel** would be that song.

Well, the second way to look at this would be the music. Like I said, if you're at camp and you made your decision whether or

not to listen attentively according to the music, you might choose not to listen.

Purin Heart needs to grow much more in the music writing of their material and this should come with growth and experience. Much like the knowledge in the lyrics come with understanding, so should the gift of music. Overall, the lyrics give this band a ministry and, as they continue to grow, let's pray for better music. God bless your ministry.

To order, send \$5 to: Richie Means, 99 Falcon Crest Dr #2, Greenville SC 29607.

--PGK

SEVENTH AVENUE

Seventh Avenue is a fledgling metal band with musical style and talent--and a need for musical maturity.

The rhythm section and guitarist provide the distinct emotional element so apparent in their songs. However, the vocalist seems to fall short in the emotional aspect of his presentation of the songs, thus leaving the listener a bit disappointed.

Their lyrics are agreeable, but not exceptional; and although they do have a variety of speeds represented on this demo, the songs of like speeds tend to sound the same and even predictable at times.

Each song is emotionally captivating and, as a whole, Seventh Avenue offers a sound relatively new to the Christian metal genre--a sort of German sound reminiscent of the mid-80's. By concentrating on their strength of presentation and striving towards musical maturity, Seventh Avenue has the potential to be a Christian metal music success.

For ordering info, write: Joachim Klauenberg, Dorfstrabe 3, D-3180 Wolfsburg 14, Germany.

--Camille Bresie

PROPHECY

Prophecy offers that fun, heavy-rocking, head-banging music that all metalheads adore. These guys seem to know what works for their style of music, and they utilize that musical maturity in each of their songs on the demo. Prophecy does have one evident deficiency--weak background vocals. However, this problem can be corrected with practice.

This review is short, because there is nothing more to say. These guys seem to have their act together; and since they have had some label interest, all they need is a confirmed record deal and a good producer. Prophecy may not alter the Christian metal music scene as we know it, but they will provide ample enjoyment and pleasure to their listeners.

For ordering info, write: PO Box 864, Mango FL 33550.

--CB

ORACLE

If I were a record company executive looking for a band to sign, this band would be it. Oracle is one of the hottest bands I have heard in a long, long time.

Hailing from Greensboro, North Carolina, Oracle has put together an outstanding seven-song demo called "SELAH." I really can't pick one song on this tape and say it's the best, because all of the songs on this tape are great. Two that I liked the most are **Passage Denied**, with its double bass drum attack and **Rebella**, with its haunting acoustic guitar. This band has one of the best vocalists around!

The production is excellent--so good, in fact, that should any record company wanting to sign this band could easily use this demo for their first release. For a musical comparison, try Iron Maiden or Mercyful Fate. If this band is not picked up very soon, I will be very disappointed.

To order, send \$10.99 (CD) or \$7.99 (tape) to: Jay Denny, 3006 Shamrock Dr, Greensboro NC 27408.

--Jeff Lott

CRUSADE COMPILATION

There's something for everyone on this tape. I had no idea of the talent that exists in Kansas City until now. All of the bands on this compilation belong to Crusade, which is like a Sanctuary-type ministry.

Outcry starts this tape off with one of two numbers. Both songs, **Majesty** and **Heaven's Love** have touches of Sacred Warrior all over them with some fantastic guitar work by Jeff Scheetz. Hot Pink Turtle is next, with **Funky Creed**, and later with **Breather**. If you like Dig Hay Zoose, then you'll love these guys. They are very original! No wonder R.E.X. signed them.

Majesty is next with **Electric Preacher**. This band blew me away. Vocalist Troy Powell can hit some of the highest notes I've ever heard! **A Tear For Babylon** was next by Heirborne. They remind me of Armageddon, with vocals similar to Axl Rose. Chancelus was next with **I See You Cryin**. A great tune about one's search for Christ. Bloodpath is next with **The Truth**. I didn't like the beginning, due to its screams of "I Am the Way, I Am the Truth, I Am the Life," but it did get better.

The last tune, **Vengeance is Mine** by Embryo Chrysalys, is a very gothic-sounding tune which started similar to **Beheaded** by Vengeance Rising. This was a great song that had that Die Happy "chugga-chugga" sound, till it began to thrash away.

This tape is a great introduction for anyone looking for new talent. Now I'm really looking forward to Volume II! To order, send \$5 (plus \$1 postage) to: Crusade, Inc, PO Box 9101, Shawnee Mission KS 66201.

--JL

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ETERNITY

Here is a band from Hayti, Missouri (where's Hayti?) that is sure to turn some heads. This is one hot band! Eternity is a three-piece band with a 12-song professionally-packaged tape full of thrash and heavee metal.

Tribulation is the standout cut, in my opinion. It's a page out of Revelation that is very well written. **Your Time Hath Come** is a great tune of which half the vocals are sung normally the go into a great Roger Martinez imitation.

The production is above average, making it a joy to listen to. The only downer is in the vocals. Drummer Kelly Matthews sounds good at times, but just can't cut it on softer tunes, like **Open The Door**. He needs to stick to drumming, which he is great at.

If Eternity can find a good singer, they might have a chance to climb out of the underground. To order, send \$9 to: Chris Brown, 209 Barry Dr, Kennett MO 63857.

--JL

VITAL IRON

Out of the stack of tapes I was given to review, I enjoyed this one the most. Vital Iron, another band from Florida, has put together a very strong tape with "WARRIORS SIGN OF VICTORY." It has 10 songs and all are great! It was produced at Huff Recording Studios in Mississippi. In fact, Clayborn Huff,

bassist for David and the Giants played on this tape.

Nine of the songs are very much metal, with lots of time changes, thunderous drumming and shredding guitars. The musicianship is great. There's only one mellow tune: **Lord, You're My Strength**, which is a beautiful song about how God will always be there to comfort us while we go through trials.

The only negative thing I found was the vocals. There are two vocal credits on this tape, but I honestly couldn't tell the difference. There are some great screams, but the vocals go flat at times.

This is a good tape. If the vocals can improve, this band could break easily out of the underground and be an example for others to follow. To order, send \$8 to: Rt. 10, Box 149-E, Tallahassee FL 32310.

--JL

COMPROMISE

If you like Scripture-base hard rock, then you'll like No Compromise. They are more of a project than a band, but I'll explain why later.

The nine songs on this full-length tape are in the commercial rock vein, and the music is really good. Talk about scripture, there are 22 references for you to look up! The lyrics are thought provoking as well. "Hate

and lies will destroy/You play your life as if it's a toy/You're playin' hard and livin' fast/You're just a puppet in Satan's cast." (from **Fool's Choice**)

The only real drawback is in the production, but we'll have to forgive Greg Coleman and Steve Zimmer, the two band members, because they are presently in prison in Rawlins, Wyoming and all they had access to was a 4-track recorder!

Lots of talent! I'd really like to hear what they could put out if given access to a real studio! To order, send \$4.50 (money orders only) to: Greg Coleman #13729, Box 400, Rawlins WY 82301.

--JL

CORNERSTONE

This is one hot band! Self described as power blues, I would definitely agree! This band from Sweden really knows what they're doing and this 3-song tape proves it! Even though they've only been together since '89, you'd swear they've played together for years. All three songs, **What is Happening**, **Little Prayer** and **Ton of Led** are quite similar, which is great! They know how to hit a groove that will keep your foot movin' all through the tape.

This is a must have! If you're a fan of guitar-based blues, jump on this now! For ordering info, write: Samuel Gustafsson, Norgardsgatan 4B, S-553 36 Jonkoping, Sweden.

--JL

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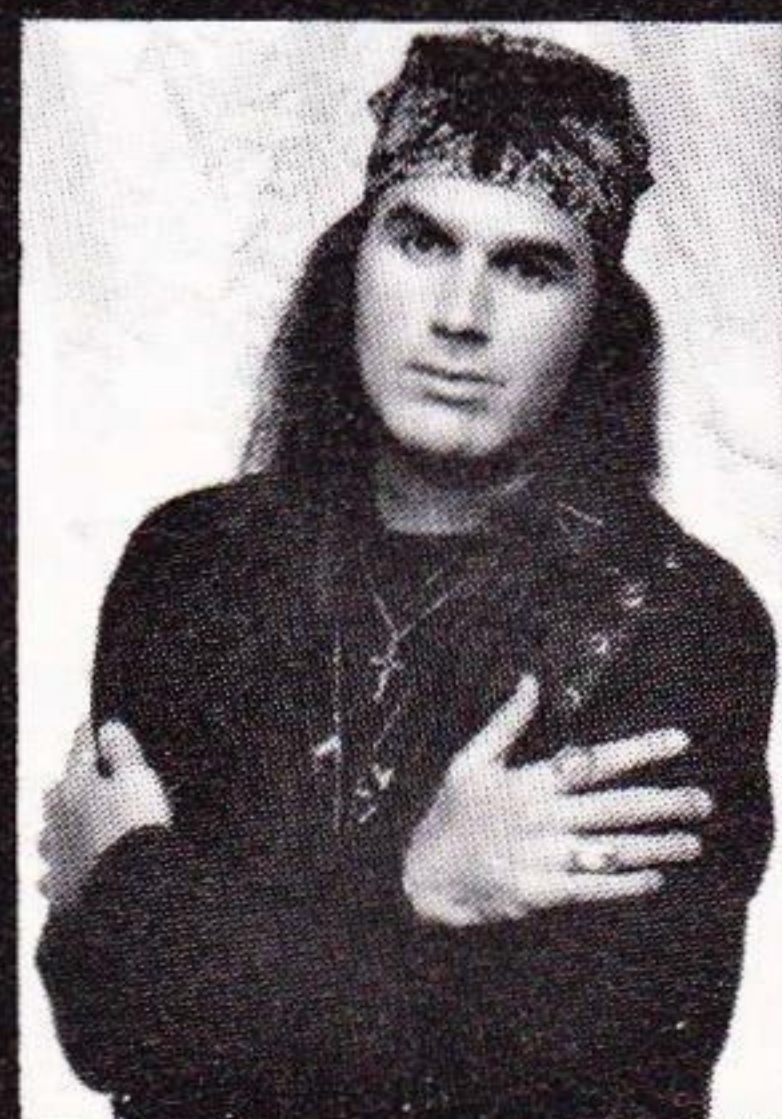
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OUT FROM UNDER

If you're a fan of 80's style hard rock, then you'll like Out From Under. There are nine songs on this tape and all are good. Even the production is great.

The song I liked the most was **Lies**. "I'll tell you the truth that Jesus paid the price/ He wasn't just a prophet who lived and was real wise/You see, He is the Son of God and He came to pay the price/He is the Way, the Truth, the Life/All other ways are lies."

Vocalist Mike McChesney reminded me a lot of Bon Scott, while his guitar leads reminded me a lot of Ted Nugent. If you remember the Dark Records' artists First Degree, then you'll have an idea of what Out From Under sounds like. A very good effort!

To order, send \$5.50 to: Darrell Leach, 22551 Costa Bella, El Toro CA 92630.
--JL

TEFLON BRAIN

This four-member band from Wichita, Kansas is so full of talent it's amazing! "DEEPLY SYMBOLIC" is a three-song tape full of diversity. The first song, **Underwear of Joy**, is a groovin' tune about how Christians are notorious for forgetting the joy of salvation. "Now I may be out of line here, bud, but it doesn't seem to me/That boredom's a requirement for life eternally!"

Song number two, **Waldorf Casserole**, is a very metallic instrumental, while **Final Void** is a serious tune about rejecting Christ and committing suicide. This song starts mellow and ends thrashin' away.

Great band! What more can I say? If you love a variety of music, then you'll love Teflon Brain! To order, send \$5 to: 1826 Westridge, Wichita, KS 67203.

--JL

AZZAN

I remember a few years ago, when Doug did the "Illinois Noise" issue. Well, I think he needs to do a "Florida Noise" issue, because recently I've been doing quite a few reviews of bands from the Sunshine State.

Here's another from that genre. Azzan has put together a seven-song demo of well-structured songs. All of them, except for **Morning Star**, are of the typical metal vein, but don't let that turn you off. They are good. **Matthew's Revelation** and **Glory To The King** show off the harder edge of this band, but I was most surprised by **Morning Star**. It started soft, and slowly picked up a pace while staying mellow. It was a refreshing song that helped me remember that metal bands are more talented than people give them credit for.

Great effort. Florida is really showing that they really have great music, and Azzan is another example of it. To order, send \$6 (plus \$1 postage) to: PO Box 8701, Jacksonville FL 32239.

--JL

DOUBLE EDGE

If you like keyboard-laced rock, then you're gonna love Double Edge--a four-piece band from Toronto, Canada. The two songs on this tape show a very talented band. **Are You In Danger** is a good introduction if you've never heard them before. Guitarist Derek Rumball's solo is hot! The second tune, **Strike Back**, starts with a soft keyboard intro before kicking in. Vocalist Timothy Huff has an original sound.

You can't miss with this tape, even the production is great! This band is definitely destined for a major label in the near future! For ordering info, write: The Rock Pit, 10 Brief Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6L-2S7.

--JL

FINAL DAZE

Final Daze is a five-member band from Foresthill, California. "GOLGOTHA" is the name of their six-song demo tape. The only really positive thing I can say about them is that they do possess some talent.

If you're looking for something strange and different, then you'll like Final Daze. I honestly didn't like this at all. The production is below average and, by looking at the cover, it took me awhile to even figure out what their name was.

The vocals go from normal to death metal throughout the tape. The best song is **Revelation**, which finds a groove and stays there through the song.

This is a demo I would have expected back in '84 or '85, but this is 1993. Even demos are looking more like album releases these days. Hey guys, catch up a little bit.

For ordering info, write: Josh Pock, 6240 Baywood Ct, Foresthill CA 95631.

--JL

DOMINYON

Here's a full-length tape of cheesy metal cliches. In 1987, these guys might've been kings of the small Christian metal heap, but it's 1993 and the riffs and rhythms, rhythms, rhythms are tired. Phew! Some of the rhythms are tight and inventive, like the intro to Ephesians, but can get repetitive.

Lyricaly, the band makes no apologies for being bold and upfront with their simple Gospel message. "Anti-Christ, don't listen to his lies/Anti-Christ, you just might be surprised."

One thing that is very cool here is **Benediction**, a picking guitar instrumental that is very classy. If you like your metal heavy and loud without lots of fanciness, then Dominyon may be the band for you; but, if you like beefier guitar tones, singers who stay out of the waah-aah! range and riffing that sounds fresh, you'll pass on Dominyon and hope they

fine tune their craft a lot more before the next release.

To order, send \$8 to: PO Box 1196, Middletown OH 45042.

--DV

SOULKEEPER

If you're looking for a replacement for the now-defunct Eternal Ryte, look no further--Soulkeeper is the one. This three-member band from Pomona, California has put together a strong four-song demo.

While **People Let Go** and **Dancin' With The Devil** are good, it's the other two songs that get noticed first. **Look What We've Done** is an environmental song, reminding us that God created the world and we shouldn't destroy it. **When Will You See** is a great tune about abortion. "Babies, they're dying in the mother's womb/It's become a darkened human tomb." How true, unfortunately, it is.

The only bad aspect of this tape is the production. While it is listenable, it is below average, so don't crank it--you might hurt your speakers!

To order, send \$5 to: 11432 Hickory Ln, Pomona CA 91766.

--JL

PROPHECY

When I got the impressive promo pack and CD from Prophecy, I said, "Hey, here's a band that's taking themselves seriously. I bet they're hot." I am sorry to report, but they should've kept working in the garage to get a more tight and refined sound before investing in the production of CD's. The guitar tones are very thin and the vocals lack confidence and passion. The album overall has a tuning problem.

Songs like **The Battle** have decent ideas, but come off with a sound crossing the old Orange County alternative sound (Fourth Watch) with a slowed-down-to-16 RPM Metallica--without the wall of crunch, mind you.

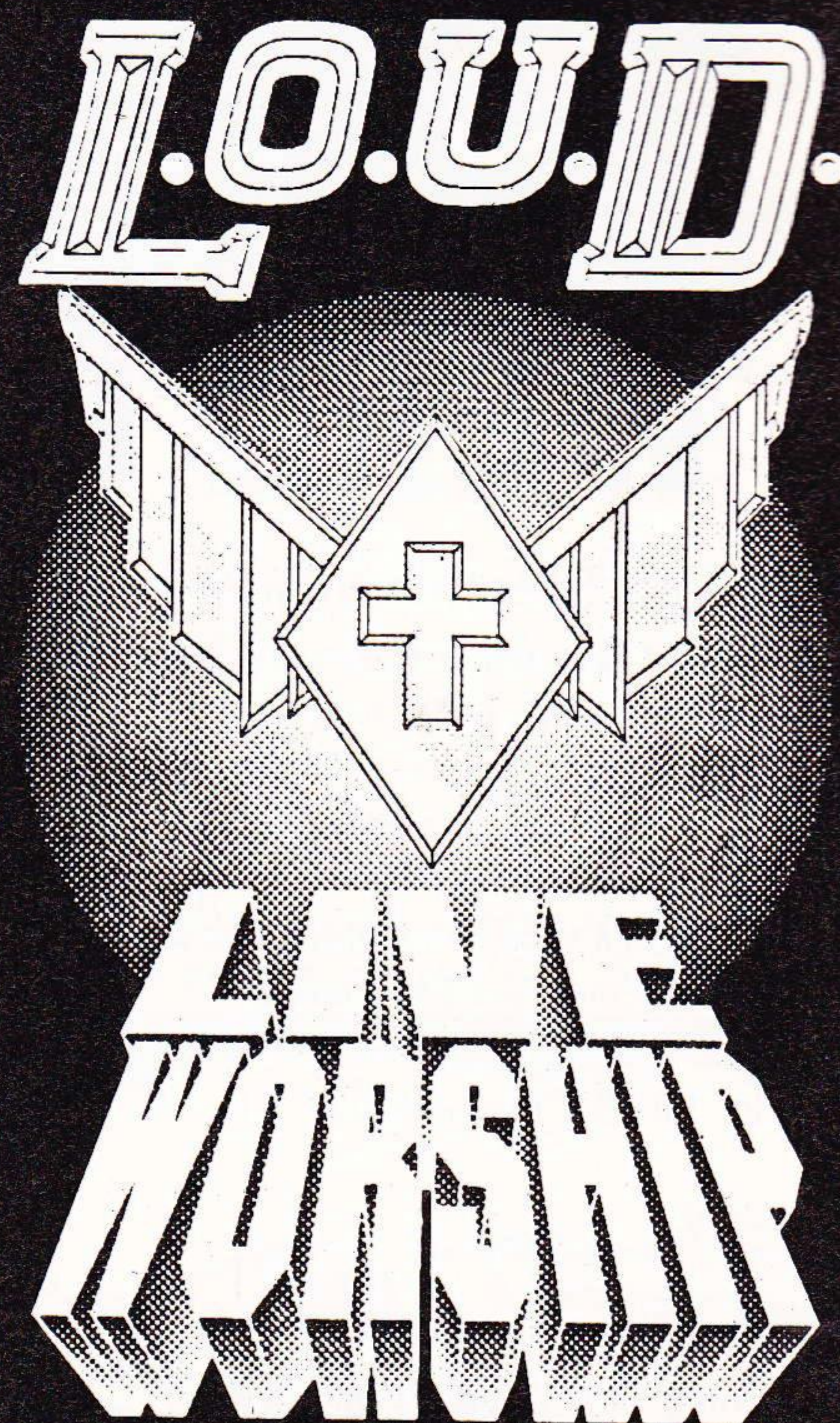
If you wanna get tuned into these guys, ask them to get in tune. You'll both enjoy it next time around. To order, send \$10 (plus \$2 shipping) to: 22406 Salmeron, Mission Viejo CA 92691.

--DV

ALLEGIANCE

One of the midwest's better hard rock bands has released a nicely packaged compact disc, which should be awesome news... The disappointing fact is that the band failed to push themselves over the top on the production of this 10-song album. Some good ideas are presented here, like the cool Gregorian chant sound beginning **In The Presence** and the attempt at Def Leppard-like BGV's in **Eye of the Storm**, yet most of the album flounders in middle-of-the-road pop. There are two songs, though, that warrent

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WEAR HEAVEN'S METAL

Austin punks Stephen Wagers (Noise Priests), Carey Womack (One Bad Pig) & Butch (Lust Control) attention: **Work it Out**, which comes slugging out of the speakers with a big 'n' nasty bass sound, making ya want to scream "Oh yeah!" and **We're Fed Up**, a song expressing anger over celebrities who recklessly espouse safe sex, which features a vocal hook much like the pre-chorus to Extreme's **Get The Funk Out**.

To order, send \$7 (for CD's) or \$5 (for tapes) to: 903 S. Center, Mahomet IL 61853.

--DV

Zoe

From West Virginia comes a three-song demo from a band called "Zoe," which is best described as typical metal. Not bad, but nothing real outstanding either. The first song, **At a Glance**, starts and ends with some soft guitar playing, but in between was blasting metal. The second song, **Slaughtered**, sounds like a song on abortin (it was too hard to understand). The third and best song, **Captain of the Host**, is an instrumental, showing off the talent of the band. The production of the tape was fair, except for **Captain**, because the level kept going up and down.

Overall, a fair effort from a good band. Maybe with better production Zoe would be a great band, but on this effort it was really hard to tell. For ordering info, write: PO Box 6128, Bluefield WV 24701.

--JL

Hold True

This five-song release (called "FADE") from Hold True is a little heavier than the last one (called "FOCUS"). Those looking for a label might be satisfied with "punk alternative." Some of the tunes, like **Build On**, sound somewhat similar to old Crucified material, with its chanting/shouting choruses with gang BGV's and rapid-fire rhythms. It's a lot less intense than The Crucified, to be sure, but they share similar punk roots. To order, send \$5 to: Bryan Hellum, 12525 Baker Ct, Chino CA 91710.

--DV

Eternal Destiny

This melodic hard rock band from New York have released an eight-song custom tape with canned production and unexciting songs. While the guitars of John Betz wail and scream a little, they still suffer from a cheesy guitar tone. The song tempos are a little slow and definitely lack the aggression that would qualify if as metal. If you compared this tape with the first Van Halen album, you'd shed tears of disappointment. Some of the vocal lines, like the choruses of **100% Pure** and **I've Got a Ticket** remind me of The Herman's Hermits on a flat night.

The band's best shot at their style of commercial hard rock comes in the last two songs: **Till The End of Time**, where they grab a hold of a decent hook; and **Rock of Salvation**,

where they attempt to cut loose and speed it up a bit. I'd say, "keep at it guys, and go after the edgier end of things next time."

To order, send \$7 to: 594 Marcellus Rd, Williston Park NY 11596.

--DV

ROBIN CROW "ELECTRIC CINEMA"

Rendezvous

Here's a guitar hero that's not your average in-your-face blazing speed maestro. His latest instrumental album (on RCA affiliate Rendezvous) has eight well-crafted compositions that travel from ethereal to a mid-tempo groove with a little bit of aggressive screaming.

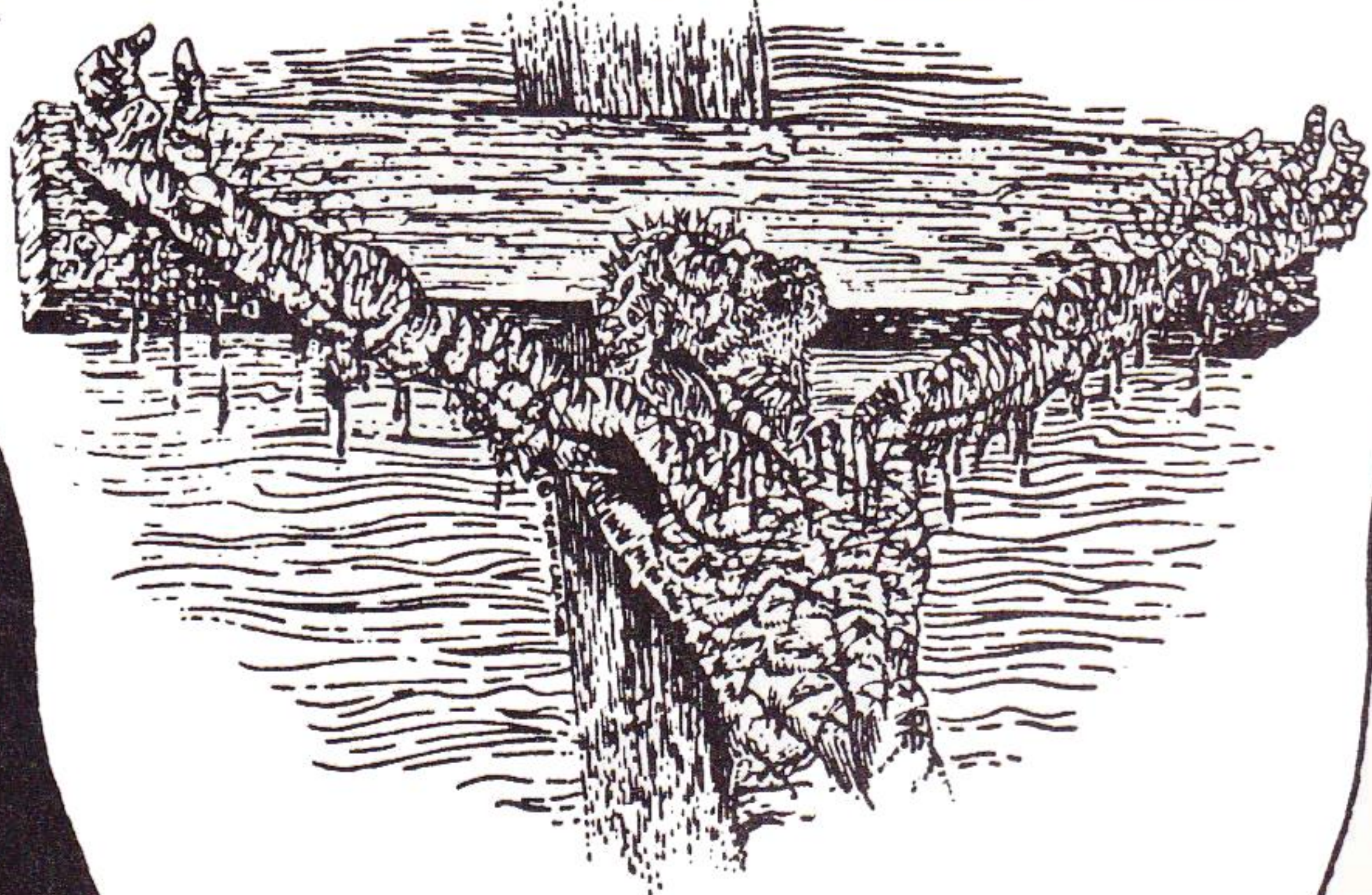
Most recognizable on this instrumental outing is an excellent medley called **Suite (Spirits From the Past)**, which includes Yes' **Roundabout**, U2's **Still Haven't Found (What I'm Looking For)** and Pink Floyd's **Another Brick in the Wall (Part II)**. It makes for an enjoyable listening experience, like a good stick of gum for a drive in the country. Other special standouts from the album include the songwriting and guest keyboards of Kerry Livgren on **Seven Leagues Under** and **The Great Abyss**.

As mentioned earlier, this is not a metal guitarist instrumental album, yet it certainly shows an excellent guitarist doing something original.

--DV

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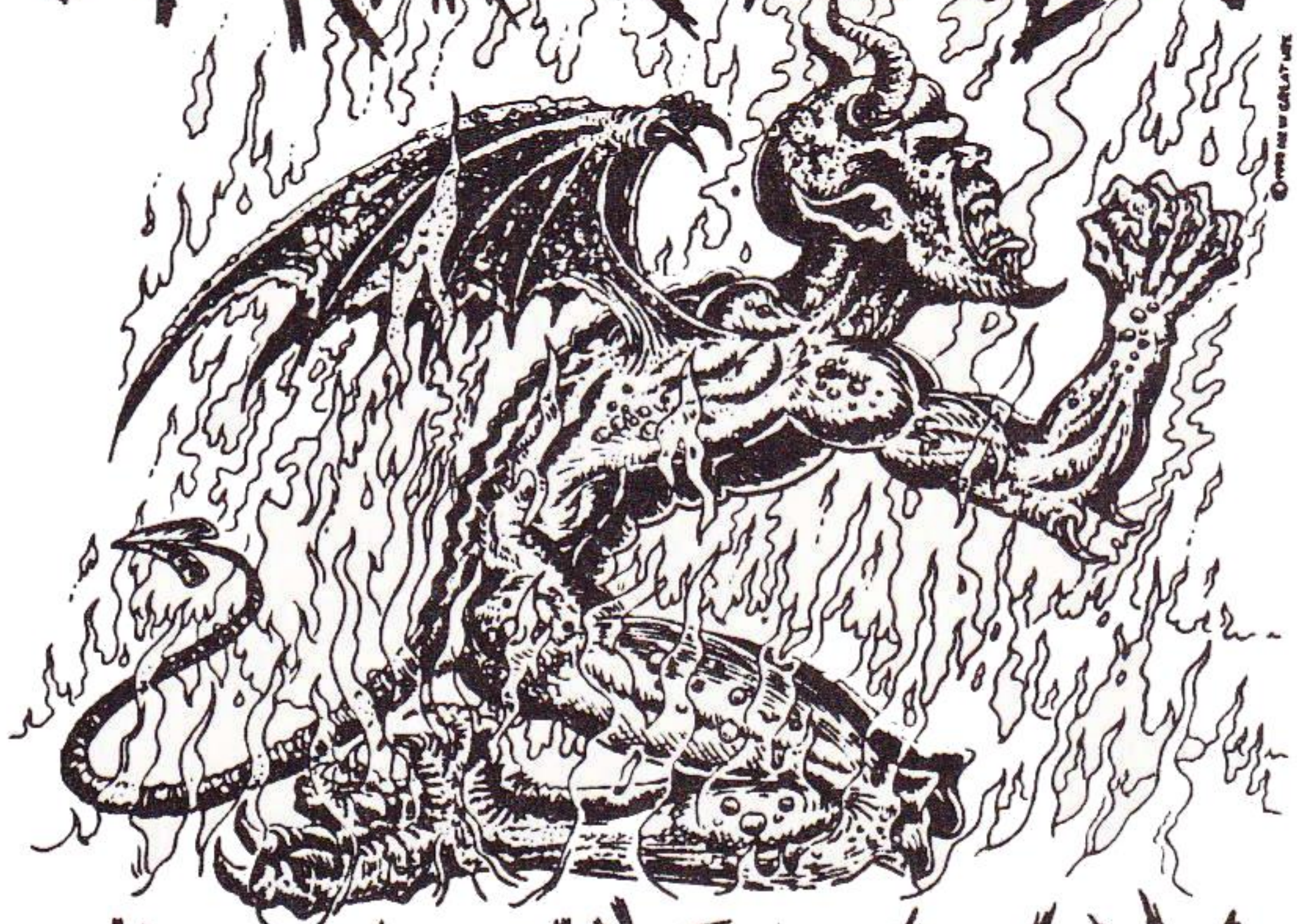
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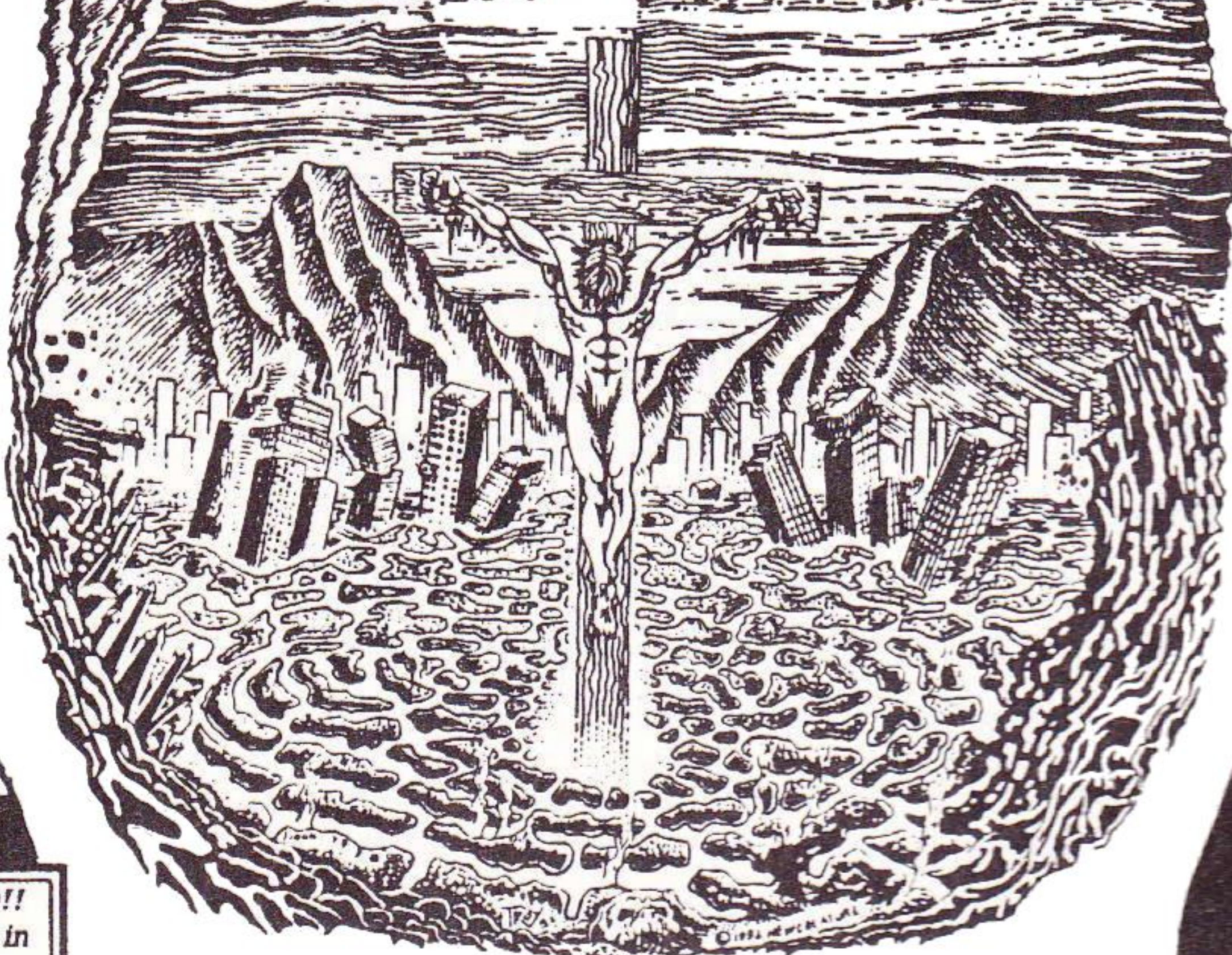
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The Musician's Quilt

ARE YOU CALLED?

By Jimmy P. Brown II

When I was first asked to do this article, I was more than happy to do so. I thought for a while what I should write about and, in fact, had something in mind, but I definitely feel that this is the subject to tackle--at least this time around.

The subject is "ARE YOU CALLED?" If you are a Christian musician, this is the most important question you have to answer. More important than the gear you choose, more important than the musicians you choose to jam with. More important than anything you could think of, ARE YOU CALLED?

I remember when I first wanted to start a Christian band, I was so excited about it that I could hardly sleep or eat (if you can believe that). But in all this excitement, the song writing, the jamming with other brothers, if took only one thing to burst my bubble. I went to my pastor at that time and told him all about my plans, how I was going to reach the world, make the best music for the Lord, be bigger than Stryper, all these things. As my pastor listened patiently to a fifteen year old kid's vision of a more progressive and more effective way to evangelize that would put the old timers to shame, and finally when I asked him what he thought, he uttered those three terrifying words, ARE YOU CALLED?

Am I called? What are you talking about, of course I'm called. Do you think God would have given me the ability to play the guitar, or sing (if you can call it that), or the ability to write evangelistic lyrics? My pastor still awaited an answer, not a bragging session on what a great musician I was, and not that I

was some sort of a lyrical genius, he wanted a definite yes or no. You see, God (and I know this is going to be hard for some of you to swallow) doesn't need us. He doesn't need our worthless talents, He doesn't need our music to win the lost. He needs men and women that are completely sold out to him.

We always say that our music is a tool, and it very well is, but we cannot be so arrogant enough to think that, if our band, or for that matter all the bands out there, were not around, that the cause for world evangelism would be lost. If God can use a donkey to talk, and if He can cause the very rocks to cry out and praise Him, I doubt very much that The ALMIGHTY GOD would need a group of well-skilled, or sloppy musicians to spread His Word. But, thank God, that He does find some use for us here, and we should find it an honor and a privilege to be used by His mercy and grace.

Now that we know that God doesn't need a band to minister His Gospel, how then do we know if we're called? I asked my pastor that very same question, and his response was, READ THE WORD, AND PRAY! I said to myself, 'What kind of response is that? If we're Christians, we should already do these things.' So I thanked him for the advice and went my way. Needless to say, I was a bit discouraged, but I figured I should just simply ask the Lord if I was called, to let me know, and if not, where is my place in the body?

I started to read the epistles of Paul, and how his life wasn't a bowl of cherries. He was called of God, he was doing the Lord's work, but yet he was getting thrown into prison, beaten with hot rods on several occasions, he was shipwrecked, and ultimately put to death. All for the higher CALLING of God.

The thing that amazed me more than anything is that, when he was going through those horrible things that probably none of us will ever go through, the Bible says at the midnight hour, after being beaten and thrown in the inner prison, he sang praises unto the Lord. When I read that, I hung my head in shame, remembering the times when I was on tour, and the promoter didn't have the best rooms for us, maybe he didn't have the money to pay us, or the P.A. system wasn't the best in the world, or there was no light show or fog machine, I had the nerve to complain and murmur, and say 'This is not what God wants me to do.' Even though there would be two or three hundred kids out there waiting to hear us, I would say, 'This is not God's will,' and complain and complain.

It was during that time I would hear that still small voice whispering in a haunting way, "ARE YOU CALLED? Are you really out there to give the kids My Word, or are you out there for your own glory? Because, if you are there for Me, you don't need the fog or the lights or the huge P.A.. Just preach the Word. That's what they need to hear."

I felt so ashamed at the way that I behaved in front of my bandmates, our crew, my manager, everyone involved. I thought, 'Paul had more reason to believe that he wasn't in God's will. After all, it was his back beaten open, it was him sitting in the filth-ridden prisons.' Side by side with him, I would have looked like a king. I had no reason to complain. In a way, Paul had every right to complain, but the Bible says he sang praises to his God in the midst of suffering, in the midst of pain. Why? Because he knew he was called.

He counted the cost, and he knew that the Lord would provide no matter what the circumstance, and above all, that God was in control. If we are called according to His purpose? That means anything goes. Whatever the circumstance, whatever the reason. That means if we get to make a record, fine. If not, fine. If we get to do this for a living, fine. But if not, that's fine also.

Being called isn't easy. Being a ministry isn't easy either. Why do you think so many bands that come on the scene saying they are a ministry, a year or two later start saying that they're: A) Mellowing out the lyrics so it can appeal more to the masses (so it can reach them, of course--Yeah right!); or B) Give up and go secular or quit altogether.

It's because it is not popular to be a ministry band. It never has been, it never will be. The Bible says that God chose the foolishness of preaching to bring forth His Word. So don't be fooled into thinking that the world is going to embrace you and what you have to say, just because your music is good. In fact, I think the Lord put it best when He said, "You'll be hated for My Name's sake."

QUILL cont'd:

So, you might ask, "What are you trying to say, Jimmy?" I guess what I'm trying to relay to you is that just because you're a musician, and you come to know the Lord, doesn't mean you're called to be in a ministry band. You see, I've talked to a lot of kids across the country who want to start a Christian band, because they think it's cool, or they have some misconception that they're going to make a lot of money, and all this dubbed under the name ministry.

If we are going to spread His Word through our music, and preach the Gospel to a lost and dying world, then we have to ask ourselves one simple question. I know many bro's out there in different bands, signed and unsigned, thrash, rap, even contemporary have all had to ask themselves this one simple question. When you see how hard the road is ahead, and when you go through some awful experiences like these bro's have and many others like them, if after all is said and done, you still pursue it, not for self glory or anything like that, but because you know that kids' lives are being changed... And maybe you won't make that much money (if any at all). Maybe you'll never have a hit record, who knows? You still have to answer that one question: ARE YOU CALLED???

Matthew 20:16

Godspeed...

HM

HELPING BANDS

I have an idea to help bands to keep from going into debt from touring. How about you doing a feature on a band and then let the readers know where they could send donations. If everyone of your readers sent in only \$1 per feature, that would be a significant amount. What do you think?

--Tim Keener

Danville, Ohio

H.E.A.R.-ING LOSS

I am a male, 23 years old, and I used to think "it will never happen to me." I was very wrong. I have been to over 300 concerts in my life. It is a lot, but I love the music loud, hard and fast. I have a hearing loss that runs in my family and I was also tone deaf when I was born. However, in 1986, the year I graduated from high school, I went to a hearing specialist and he told me what I did not want to hear. He said, "Either you quit going to concerts or wear ear plugs when you go, or you will be deaf by the time you are 30." I did not listen to his advice. I was basically young and stupid. I, too was diagnosed with tinnitus-like the examples in the "H.E.A.R." article in Issue #33. I now have a permanent ringing that is getting worse after each concert I go to



(even when I do wear ear plugs). At first it was a light ringing sensation that I could only hear when it was quiet. But now I hear it over people talking or the radio playing at a low volume. It is getting worse and worse. Yes, you do look stupid with ear plugs, but you will look dumber when you are wearing hearing aids. You know, if I would have listened to my mom, I would not be wearing dentures. Now I am on the verge of going deaf.

I do drive a convertible (95 db) and I also work in a very noisy environment. My left ear is worse and I think that it's from riding with the window down. I feel sorry for the idiots who put the loud bass thumpers in little cars and drive around with the windows up. We are going to have a generation that is deaf! Take my advice and save your hearing: wear earplugs and keep the volume low! You might look stupid now, but in the long run you will still be able to enjoy life (at full volume). In Psalms 66:1 it says, "Praise Him with a joyful noise." Do it, but keep it down!

--Mark Milner

Alexandria, Kentucky

SHREDDIN' ISSUES

Every time I get my Heaven's Metal Magazine, either the cover is ripped or half gone. Could you please do something about this?

--Kevin Brunk

Watertown, Wisconsin

(Ed--My printer up in Michigan ships out HM via Second Class mail after it's printed. I've asked them to put cardboard stiffeners in the bundles they send out, so maybe that will help reduce this destruction that's been happening in the mail. Sorry!)

YOU'RE STABBING YOUR BROTHER!

I'm angry! And sad. Why do Christians always have to be so hard on each other? I feel so sorry for Doug Van Pelt. He doesn't make Heaven's Metal to make money or anything. He is doing it because the Lord has asked him to do it!

So where do all the Pharisees come from? Instead of encouraging Doug in the great job he's doing, they (no names neces-

sary) prove their ignorance by counting all the swear words in an interview with a profane band (Babylon A.D.). Of course one can't rule out all these foul words; then there would be almost no words left. And what comes out from your mouth is a mirror of your thinking! That is what "What So and So Sez" is for, isn't it, to show what goes on in the profane metal scene? By the way James, do you really think kids who read HM will think it's alright to swear just because an ungodly band does so?

I don't really know, but I think Doug gets really, really hurt when blinded people keep on pointing out the few mistakes they think he makes, instead of seeing that he is really concerned about his readers. I know, 'cause he has written to me personally twice about an unimportant thing like a HM mag, which was probably stolen in the mail, although he's for sure up to his ears with work.

Well, it's not only you who have problems! Here in Sweden the biggest churches have more or less banned Christian metal. This is what may happen if we don't listen to the Holy Spirit before opening our mouths.

Last, I want to say this: Doug does his best. He is no machine (thank God) that you can slam with a hammer 'til it works. He is a brother in Christ and he will get hurt if you stab him in his back.

It is not easy for me to express myself in your language, but I hope I've made my point without being unjust. God bless all of you at Heaven's Metal.

--John M. Nilsson

Stockholm, Sweden

ACHTUNG BABY

After reading your article on U2 in Issue #39, I'm kind of shocked. I had always heard that they were a Christian band, and still believed in them, even after **Acrobat** on "ACHTUNG BABY." But, after what you said about them, I can't really believe that they are strong Christians. Maybe you could get a "What U2 Sez" in the future, because I'd really be interested to find out where their lives are. Don't get me wrong, I'm not mad at

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anybody, I'm just kind of confused. But U2,
I'll be praying for you!

--Jacob Flory
Troy, Ohio

A NEW AND PERFECT UNION...

I wanted to write in response to Thom Gladhill's letter (HM #38). I attend the New Union Club frequently (on metal nights). It is very sad to hear about Thom's bad experience at the New Union Club. Every time I go it's a fun, clean, nice place with pleasant people and GREAT TUNES. However, sometimes you can run into people who aren't pleasant at all. For example, I brought a friend who wasn't a Christian to see a show there. He butted in front of someone and told them to take a hike, but he used a 4-letter word to make his point. All this to say that not everyone who walks into a Christian place is a Christian. Think about it?!

--Pauline
Arden Hills, Minnesota

MUSICIANS ARE MINISTERS

It seems that the support from our churches has been nil for this musical missionary work by people who have left their high paying jobs, homes, friends and the world to go to the needy--our nation's children. I speak from the experience of sleeping on the

floors of the wonderful families who helped my band go out to travel and play. Most groups are paid less than a 20th of their secular counterparts if paid at all. The children saved are countless, but most groups--finding almost no support from church or brethren--must stop or starve literally. This is a terrible thing and I beg for your help for them. They need your help. I just implore you to seek out the ones close to you in this ministry and ask how much you can help. You'll be surprised how much so little can help.

--T. Allen Cook
Indiana

WATCH OUT!

Hey, just a note to wish you peace during your upcoming trials. Having taken the high ground of morality, ethics and what is honoring to God, you no doubt will receive an attack. Be prepared for people to accuse you of ruining everything because their character has been brought into question. When the facade of uprightness is shaken, and the foundation the facade is built upon crumbles, people get nasty. People who have integrity resent calls for accountability, but will stand the scrutiny.

Those who have no integrity of their own hate calls to account for actions and words and often times push for compromise

and cover up. These people link together the prestige of their position, the image of the organization and the negative repercussions that the disclosure will bring on all included.

In my experience, the one who calls for accountability, et al, is chided, because they would not go along, because they make waves in a small pool. The urging to overlook, condescendence with deference, which creeps and becomes a perverted condonation of the questioned actions. Hypocrisy is the fruit of such labors. Choose to remain pure in heart and deed. "The resolute integrity of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego is ever before Me." (Daniel 3) Refusing to bow, trusting in God. And Jonah comes to mind. It is prayer in the fish's belly, and also the way he handled God forgiving Ninevah. Let us all be like John the Baptist and say, "Repent" and also "Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away our sin." Unfortunately, some will not change directions until the situation becomes a millstone around their neck. When he looks at me and tries to tie it upon me, instead, by God, he will find a cross instead. Bring light into the darkness. Yes, even the darkness that is in "Christian activities."

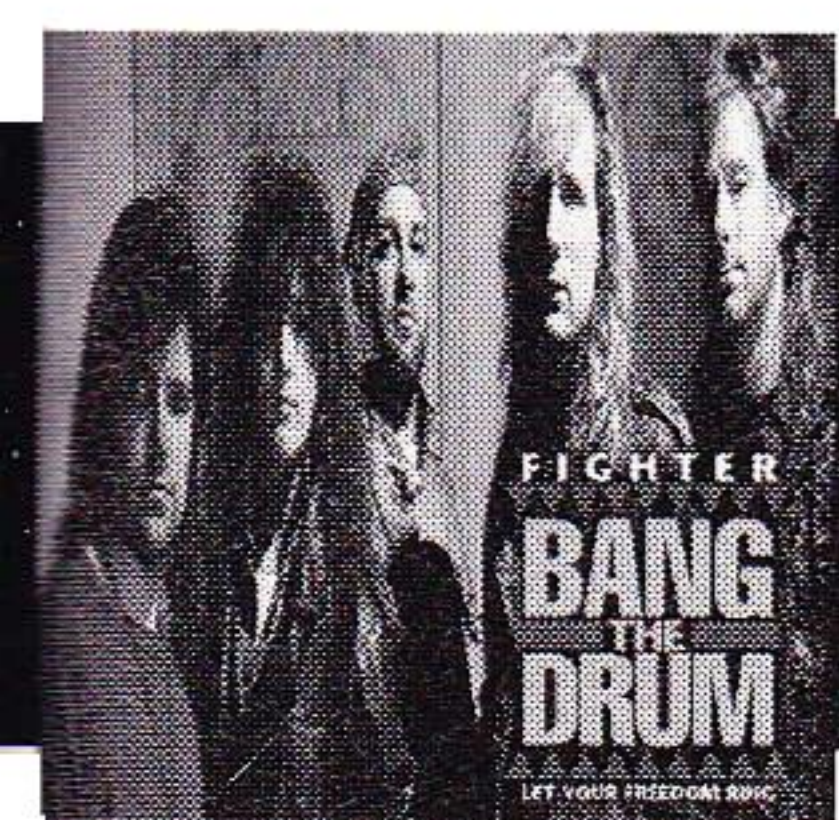
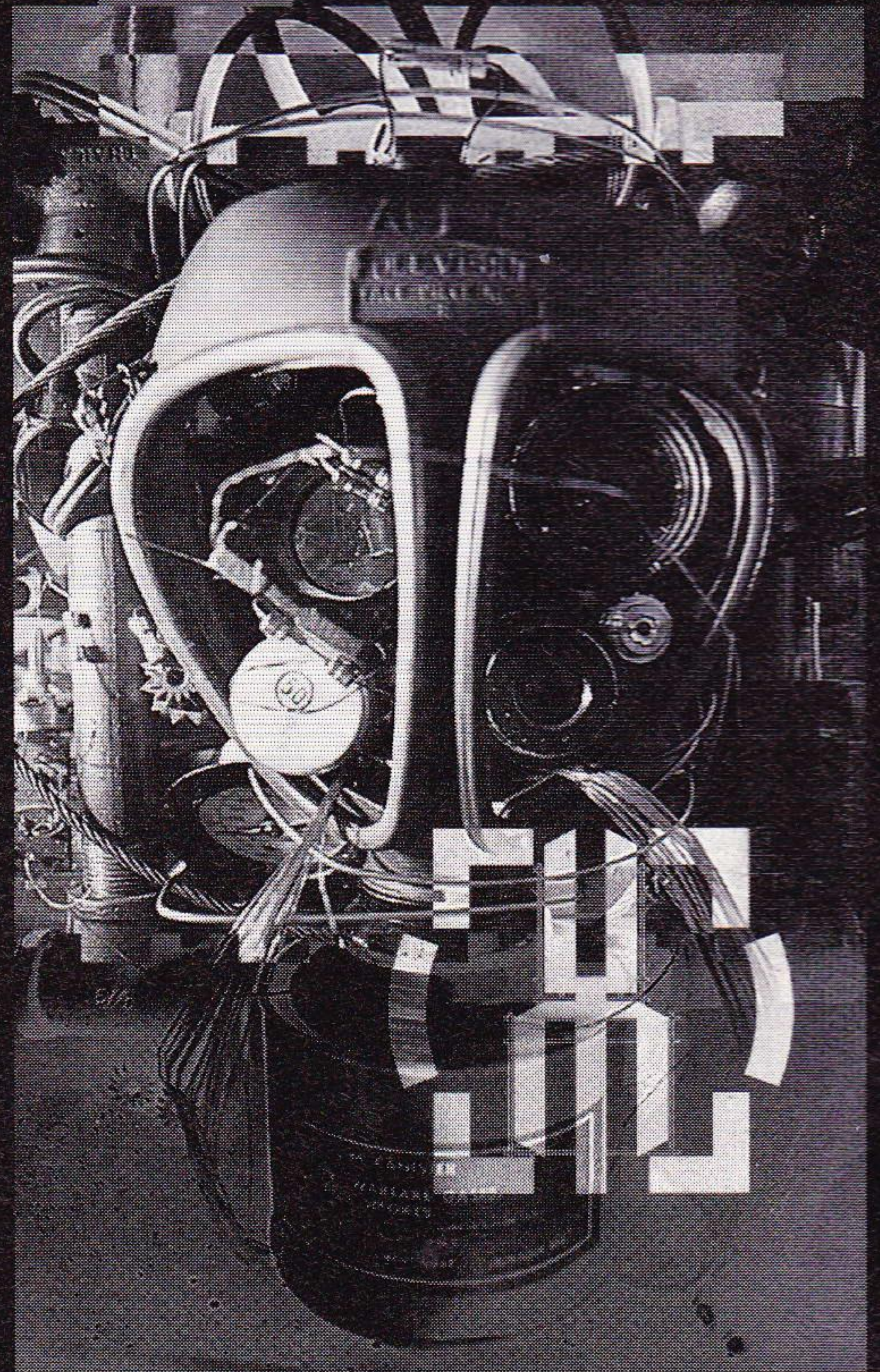
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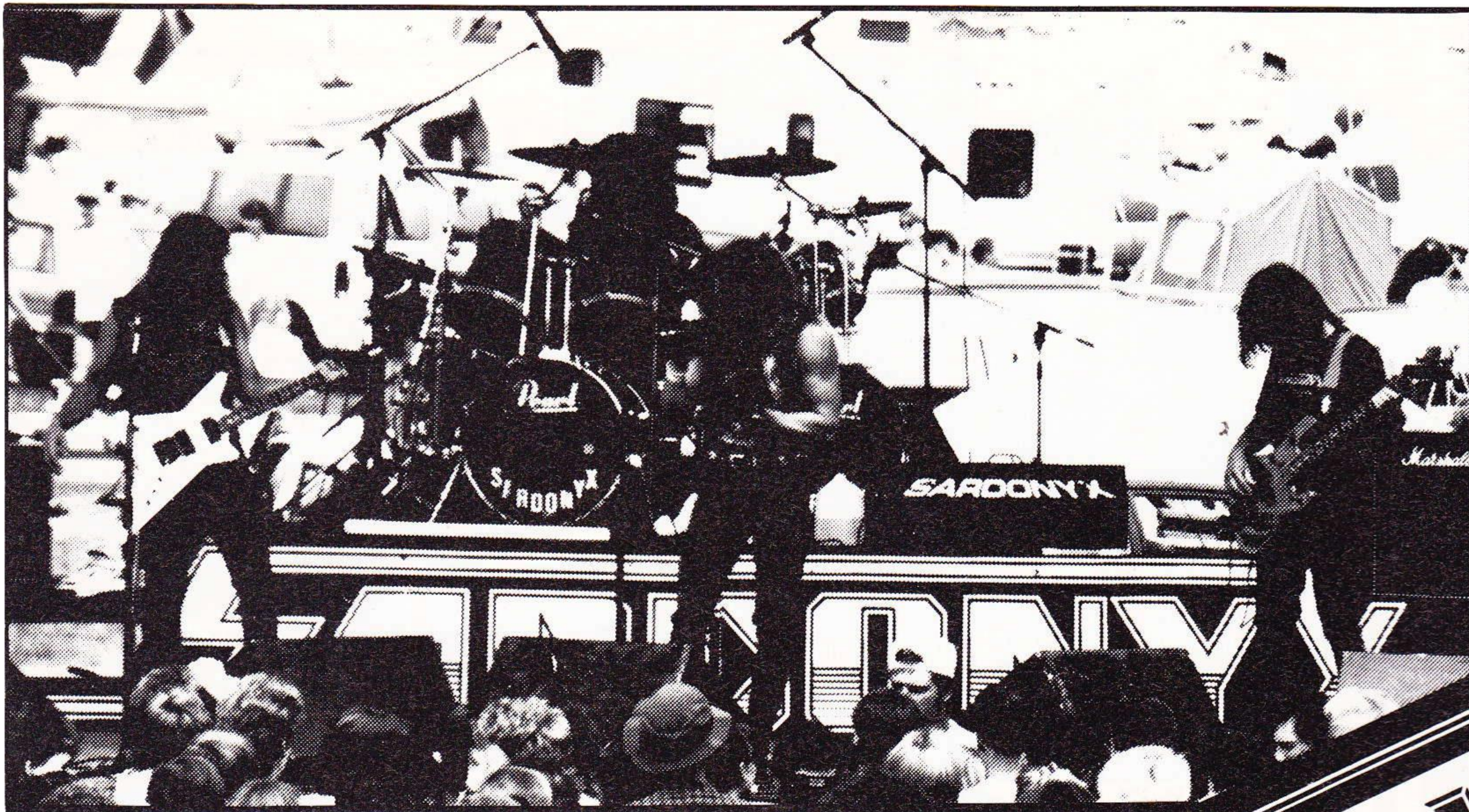
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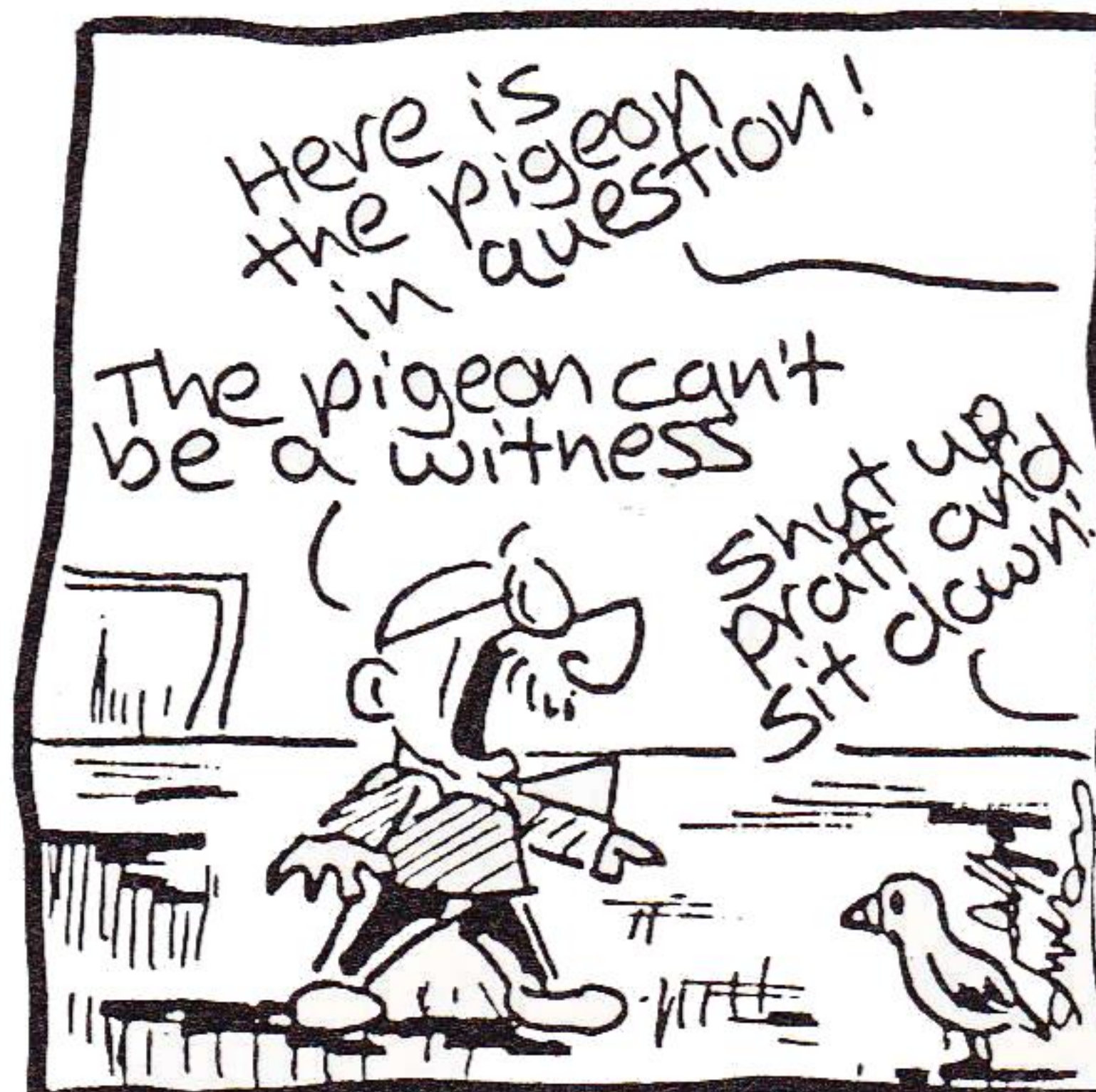
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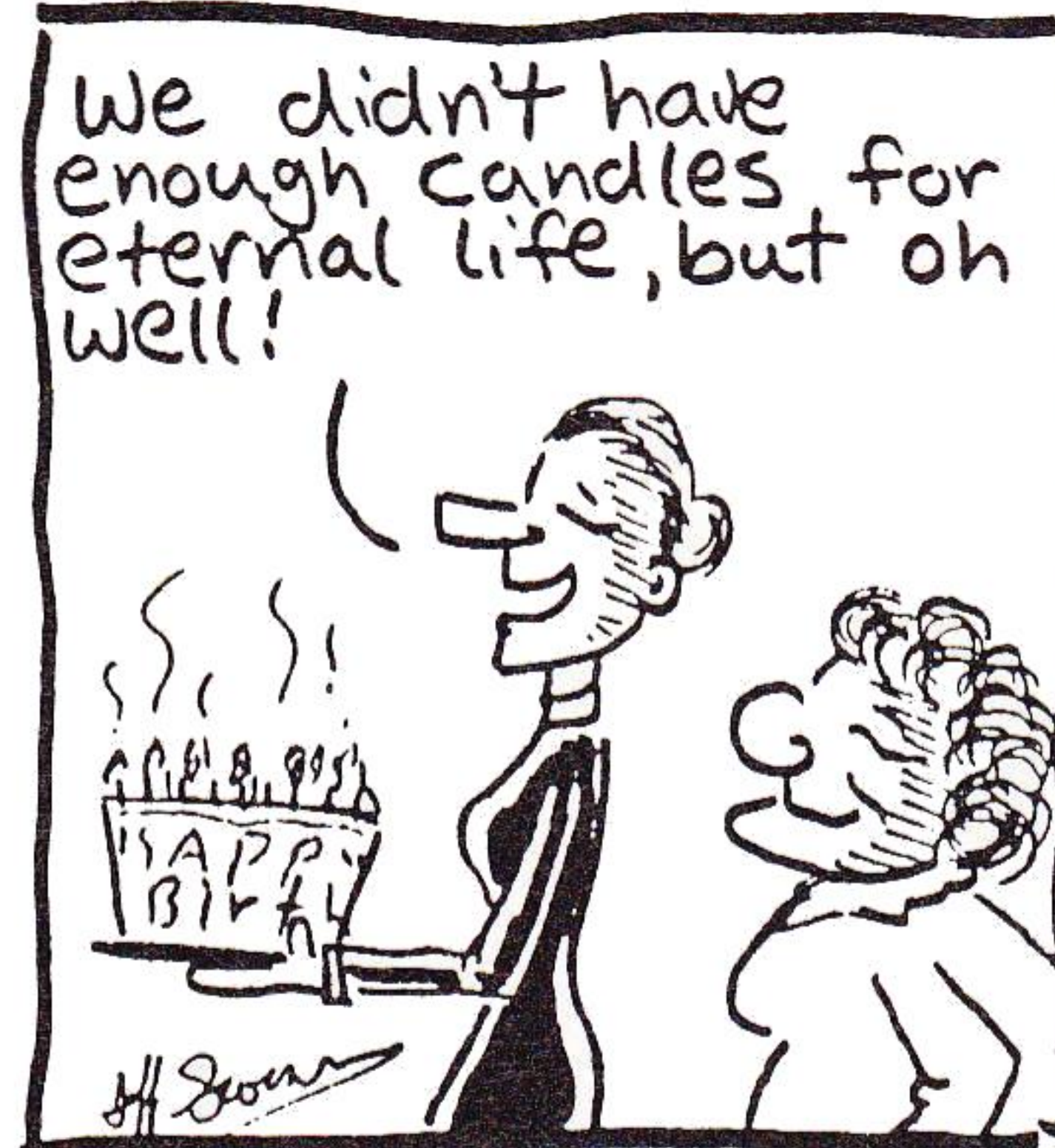
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PAIN

Pain is real. I can remember feeling pain so intense that I thought I might have a heart attack. I was doubled over in pain in the middle of the night. I hurt so much that I couldn't go to sleep until 8 or 9 hours later. All I could do was lay on the floor and moan. This pain made me wish I could die.

I found myself having to resist the temptation of suicide. I knew with all my mind that taking my life was out of the question, but the pain was so intense and so immediate that I actually had to resist this wicked temptation. This was real pain.

I know that others have felt pain, and that brings some comfort; but what really comforts, though, is knowing that Jesus knows what it's like to suffer pain and that He's praying for me and that He's on my side.

He was beaten with rods, had 39 lashes with a cat-of-nine-tails that ripped holes in his back. He was blindfolded and struck with fists. He had nails hammered through his hands and feet and was hung on a cross, which killed Him a few hours later.

He knows what pain is. He can relate to us. He is our "high priest" who is able "to

sympathize with our weaknesses." (Hebrews 4:15) I couldn't even begin to relate to pain like that, but I know that He can relate to my pain.

I've felt another kind of pain also. I've felt the kind of grieving pain where I thought my heart might burst. My emotions got to a point to where it felt like my world was going to end. It's during times like this when you can't see hope, nor do you feel like you could reach out for it even if you saw it. Sometimes your vision gets so focused on the pain that it's all you can see, feel or think about.

This kind of pain is usually lonely, too. You feel like you're all alone in the universe and you sometimes wish there were someone there to comfort you. You begin to feel overwhelmed, and all you can do is either cry and let it crush your heart for a while like a winepress crushes grapes, or you bury it and replace it with anger or sheer determination. Sometimes the only way words can come close to describing pain is when you can associate them with a common experience of your own.

One night when I was experiencing extreme pain, I

opened the Bible and read the account of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. "Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to them, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with Him, and He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them, 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.'" (Matthew 26:36-38)

My eyes looked to that phrase, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." This proved to me that Jesus could relate to what I was going through. He experienced pain so bad that He was overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death."

He was about to be arrested and taken away from His friends and go through beatings, abuse, sleep deprivation, and death by torture. He knows what real pain is--both emotional and physical.

How did He deal with it? He prayed. He is our example. Come before God in the midst of your pain. He has promised a wonderful thing to those who call upon His Name: comfort.